THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS

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▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Mangled remains of the AI Express that crash-landed at Kozhikode airport (top); the spot where the plane landed after skidding off the runway | PTI

WHAT HAPPENED

- Pilot Deepak V Sathe and co-pilot Akhilesh Kumar tried to land the jet on runway number 28, but failed. It was raining, but visibility was 2,000 metres
- Plane circled the airport a number of times
- **7.41 PM:** The plane approached from the sea side and landed on runway 10. Actual touchdown marker is around 1,000 feet from the start of the runway (about 300 metres of the 2,860-metre runway), but the plane touched down at near mid-point (about 1,500 metres)
- It overshot to the Runway End Safety Area (RESA) and veered off the surface, plunged 35 feet and crashed into the boundary wall of the airport and split into two
- Soon after the crash, fire tenders circled the area and sprayed foam to form a protective carpet around the flight as fuel was leaking
- Passengers came out through the broken part of the aircraft before the rescue operations begin at 8pm
- **11.45 PM:** Rescue operation was completed when all the trapped passengers were removed from the mangled remains of the aircraft

149
PASSENGERS UNDERGOING TREATMENT AT HOSPITALS

Bad weather or cockpit error? Theories abound

Centre orders probe into Air India Express crash at Kozhikode airport

DHINESH KALLUNGAL @ T'Puram

A day after the Air India Express plane skidded off the Kozhikode Airport runway and split into two, claiming 18 lives, the focus on Saturday was on finding the reasons for the crash. While a section of aviation experts and staff at the airport pointed fingers at the cockpit crew, others questioned the standard of the runway.

While an investigation has begun, an analysis of the flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder is expected to provide vitals clues. They were sent to New Delhi for retrieving data.

Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, talking to reporters in Kozhikode, said, "Let's not speculate. The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau is conducting an investigation," he said. The minister, however, ruled out tabletop runway being the reason for the accident. "This is not the only airport with a tabletop runway. We've other airports and our neighbouring countries too have airports with tabletop runways," he said.

Captain Deepak Vasant Sathe

First Officer Akhilesh Kumar

Theories and rumours about the possible reasons for the crash — from hydroplaning to tailwind to pilot error — were doing the rounds right from Friday night. Doha-based aviation expert Jacob K Philip said the chances of hydroplaning are very remote as there were only light showers during the time of the accident. "At least 3mm water is required on the runway for hydroplaning, a process in which a layer of water builds between the wheels of the aircraft and the runway surface, leading to a loss of traction that prevents the aircraft from responding to control inputs. But the topography of the airport and its runway and the light rain during the time of accident can rule out this," he said. **CONTINUED ON: P7**

Questions over future of airport

DHINESH KALLUNGAL & KUMAR VIKRAM @ T'Puram / New Delhi

THE future of Kozhikode airport, which witnessed the first crash involving a passenger aircraft in the state on Friday night that claimed 18 lives, will depend on several factors that will emerge from the findings of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB). The agency launched an investigation into the air crash on Saturday.

The operation of wide-bodied aircraft at the airport was suspended from May 2015 in the wake of the Court of Inquiry report on the Air India Express Boeing 737 crash in Mangaluru in May 2010.

Later, the DGCA had, in 2018, given the nod for the operation of the wide-bodied aircraft with some riders.

CONTINUED ON: P7

India, China hold talks on Depsang

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

DIVISION commanders of the Indian and Chinese armies met on Saturday for a long overdue discussion on the Depsang bulge standoff in eastern Ladakh.

"Major Generals of both sides met at 11am at Daulat Beg Oldi. Depsang is included in the itinerary," a senior army officer said. The two sides will also discuss other areas where talks for disengagement have not made much progress.

The Indian side is being led by Major General Abhijit Bapat, the General Officer Commanding of the 3 Division, which is entrusted with defending the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh. **CONTINUED ON: P7**

Language skill test for non-Kannadigas likely

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

NON-Kannadigas who plan to study or work in Karnataka may soon have to take up a Kannada language skills exam on the lines of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

The Kannada Development Authority (KDA), which is working on the module, is expected to roll it out by November 1.

The Sarojini Mahishi Report had recommended reservation for Kannadigas in jobs in the private sector in Karnataka. Since the state cannot make it mandatory, it amended the Karnataka Industrial Employment Rules, 1961, a few months ago stressing that priority should be given to Kannadigas in private sector jobs. As per the rules, those residing in Karnataka for not less than 15 years and who can write, read, talk and understand Kannada are eligible to be recruited by private industries for clerical and other jobs.

"We are preparing some modules similar to TOEFL and one has to clear it to study or work here. There will two modules — one for the skilled labour class and another for the white collar employees. It will be simple Kannada," KDA Chairman T S Nagabharana told TNSE. **P5**

WITH THIS ISSUE
ETERNAL AYODHYA
PLUS 12 PAGES MAGAZINE

EXPRESS READ

Former Lt Guv Murmu sworn in as CAG

New Delhi: Former J&K Lt Governor Girish Chandra Murmu was sworn in on Saturday as the Comptroller and Auditor General, the Rashtrapati Bhavan said.

CHUGGING INTO THE PAST P2

50% OF ALLOTTED VENTILATORS

STATES HAVE GOT FROM CENTRE SO FAR

An RTI reply shows that of the 17,968 ventilators allocated to states till July 10, only 9,150 instruments had been delivered.

P7

RAINS ABATE, BUT DAMS BRIMMING

Rescue personnel conducting a search operation near the Srikateshwara temple in Nanjangud on Saturday | UDAYSHANKAR S | REPORTS: 3 & 5

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A panoramic view of Hubballi Railway Museum

CHUGGING INTO THE PAST

Hubballi rail museum takes you on a journey of the Indian Railways

PICS: D HEMANTH

PRAMODKUMAR VAIDYA @Hubballi

IF you want to travel in the trains of yesterday and know the journey of the Railways, you have come to the right station. The newly opened rail museum in Hubballi city invites you to take a journey.

A walk through the museum will show you how one of the world's largest rail networks started with coal-fired engines, encountered new technology and incorporated it to become the institution that it is today: A well-oiled network of 13,500 trains that takes 23 million people to over 7,300 destinations each day. To put that in perspective, the populations of Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad combined board a train each day.

The Hubballi Railway Museum, set up by the South Western Railway in Hubballi city (Dharwad district) which is also its headquarters. It was opened to the public on August 5 and is the second such museum in Karnataka.

The brainchild of SWR general manager Ajay Kumar Singh, the museum's chief architect is SWR principal chief mechanical engineer Ravi Kumar. It comprises two cottages built in 1907 and named Ghataprabha and Malaprabha – after two tributaries of the Krishna River – and an outdoor exhibit.

Ghataprabha cottage has a beautiful working model of a train with signal instruments. It also presents visitors with chronicles of locomotives, wagons and coaches. There is a history corner that talks about old railway companies and a section where you can see the working of the Railways on medical and security fronts. Visitors can also buy memorabilia from a counter here.

Enter the Malaprabha cottage, and a series of beautiful charcoal sketches greet you. Other attractions in the cottage include displays of ticket counters, printed tickets and iron chests for cash. It also has a replica of a Station Master's room equipped with a life-size statue of the officer and a replica of a parcel office with a 150-year-old weighing machine.

The highlight of the museum though, is probably the outdoor exhibit, which has the Galaxy of Rolling Stock. Rolling stock refers to vehicles used in the railways. Besides coaches, wagons and tankers, which are displayed on tracks, the exhibit also includes rails, sleepers, level-crossing gates and signals.

Another section of the outdoor exhibit displays a narrow-gauge coach themed "Unity in Diversity" in which life-size statues of passengers from across the country dressed in their cultural clothes are seated. One can even catch educative and entertaining short films and videos at the theatre coach.

A combination of talent and resources of the engineering, electrical, science and technology and operations departments of the railways made the museum possible, says E Vijaya, chief public relations officer of the SWR. Internal resources were mobilised to build the museum and no separate fund was allotted for the project, she adds.

The museum has been designed with needs of all age groups in mind. While the Ghataprabha cottage has a children's activity corner, another attraction that is likely to make the visit memorable for children as well as adults, is the toy train, with colour carriages and a steam engine, which was manufactured at the Hubballi workshop.

If all this excitement makes you hungry, you can stop by the grand coach restaurant, or the Suruchi cafeteria, which offers a menu of regional delicacies.

TIMING
- Tuesday to Friday: 12 noon to 7 pm
- During weekends and public holidays: 12 noon to 8 pm
- Holiday on Monday

ENTRY TICKET
- For adults ₹20
- For children (5-12 years) ₹10
- Free for kids less than 5 years old
- ₹10 for toy train

SOPs FOR VISITORS
- In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, entry for visitors to the museum is restricted to 30 members at a time. Visitors have to sanitise their hands using sanitiser dispensers provided, compulsorily wear face mask and maintain social distancing. Theatre and restaurant coaches will remain closed until return of normalcy.

Ploughing youth power and cultivating paddy

PRAKASH SAMAGA @Udupi

AMID this gloom of uncertainty and unrest wrought by the pandemic, some are worried about losing their jobs in the present, others dread an unseen future. This bunch of young men from a tiny village – Perampalli near Manipal in Udupi district – however, have channelised their hard work into farming. Unperturbed by the churn in their lives, they find new meaning and joy in paddy cultivation.

How these youngsters, who are in their 20s, caught up with each other and got involved in growing paddy is an interesting tale. During the initial spell of Covid-19 in February, Ivan D'Souza, who worked as a hospitality professional in Dubai, got an inkling of job risks in the future. He decided to return to his native Udupi, accompanied by his friend from Dubai Roshan Kunal D'Souza, who also hails from Udupi. The two felt it better to do something back home rather than struggle abroad. During lockdown, finding a job in the hospitality space troubled Ivan. It was during this time, four others like him chanced upon the idea of paddy cultivation, since they had an ancestral connect with the traditional occupation.

A WhatsApp group came handy and connected the dots for Ivan and Roshan, and sent them to work in the field. The group was created by Remi Roison D'Silva–a BE graduate – to which he added his friends Ivan and Roshan, apart from Royston Russel D'Souza – a supervisor in a Bengaluru-based company. This group, which would later become the launch-pad for their farming activities, also had Joseph D'Souza, Ranson D'Souza and Arvin D'Souza (also from Perampalli) regularly discussing the fun of engaging in agriculture.

Remi says realising that the pandemic would not be going away anytime soon, they began to explore the best methods of utilising their time and energy.

Everybody in the group was thrilled by the lush green paddy fields in Perampalli and its surroundings. Wanting to grow paddy themselves, they first looked at lands belonging to friends and relatives left fallow from the past 3-4 years for cultivation. The youngsters also consulted real estate owners in some instances to whom some tracts of land were already sold and requested that they be allowed to cultivate paddy in them this season, so that the land can be put to best use during the pandemic.

Joseph (33), being the oldest of the group and with some knowledge about paddy cultivation, guided the others to sow the fields. The youths have together sown six acres of paddy fields, having hired tractors and sourced seeds. Together, they have spent about Rs 60,000.

With dedication and discipline, Joseph and Remi goaded the others in their team to learn their new-found skill. Gradually, they pushed towards their complete immersion in sowing, and transplantation began.

Witnessing these youngsters' resolve, phone calls are coming in from various places around Udupi suggesting that there is fallow land to be utilised for paddy cultivation, for which the group could lend a helping hand. "We have no problem visiting their fields and cultivating them from next year," Remi says.

The youths have together sown six acres of paddy fields, having hired tractors and sourced seeds. Together, they have spent about

₹60,000

A WhatsApp group came handy and connected the dots for Ivan and Roshan, and sent them to work in the field.

From spending time playing games on the mobile phone and merely chatting about global affairs, we changed our mindset and got straight down to business

Remi Roison D'Silva, who created the WhatsApp group

ORDER FOR STATE

Refund extra stamp duty collected: HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

QUASHING notices issued by the state government, the Karnataka High Court ordered it to refund the additional stamp duty collected from the owners of commercial apartments of Prestige Tech Park-III at Amane Bellandur Khane village.

Allowing the petitions filed by owners Shehnaz and 88 others questioning notices issued by the Stamps and Registration Department in August and September 2019 demanding additional stamp duty, Justice Krishna S Dixit upheld the arguments of the petitioners that the notices cannot be issued two years after the registration of apartments as per Section 45 A(3) of the Karnataka Stamp Act.

IN THE HC

The petitioners had registered the apartments in 2015-16. The District Registrar issued notices after the objection raised by the accountant general of the state government.

The judge ordered the state government to refund the additional stamp duty within eight weeks.

EXAMINATION FEES ANOTHER BURDEN FOR BCU STUDENTS

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA
@Bengaluru

"MY father, a construction worker, lost his job during the lockdown, and it's difficult for him to find another job right now," said Sumukhi (name changed), a student of Bangalore City University, who is finding it difficult to pay her exam fee.

The parents of most of her peers too come from similar backgrounds. "They work as daily wage workers engaged either in agricultural work or construction. We are struggling to pay college fees and now another set of fees has piled up," she said.

Recently, BCU declared August 15 as the deadline for filing applications and payment of exam fee, the details of which were uploaded on its website on July 24. "Our situation has been overlooked. Institutes have started acting like everything is back to normal when it is not. Most of my batchmates are considering taking a gap year and doing part-time jobs," Sumukhi said.

She is not alone. "Many families have lost their jobs and incomes... and it's been a difficult task to earn a livelihood itself," said Sithara H M, Bengaluru district president, All-India Democratic Students' Organisation.

"The government should consider this year an extraordinary one and waive all fees related to exams and admissions. We urge the government not to collect examination fees as the pandemic situation continues to worsen," she added.

We urge the government not to collect examination fees as the pandemic situation continues to worsen

Sumukhi (name changed), student of Bangalore City University

The university will conduct practical exams and viva for fourth-semester students of Master's Programmes between September 15 and 21.

The university has already announced on its website that the fourth-semester written exams will be held from September 1-14. Exams to clear backlogs of second semester will be held from September 22 to 30, after the practical exams.

However, exams for second-semester students will not be conducted, in line with government directions, BCU said. Instead, students will be evaluated based on their performances in the internal examinations and the previous semester's exams.

Trial run for first stretch of Metro Ph-2 this month-end

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE trial run of trains on the first stretch of Phase II of Namma Metro will be held this month-end. This 6.29 km stretch from Yelachenahalli to Anjanapura (Reach-4B line) is almost ready with some finishing works being completed, while the revised deadline to launch it is November-end.

Five elevated stations of Konankunte Cross (earlier Anjanapura Cross Road), Doddakallasandra, Vajrahalli, Thalaghattapura and Anjanapura are situated along this Line.

Chief Public Relations Officer, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), B L Yashwanth Chavan told The New Sunday Express, "Architectural finishing works like cladding are pending at a couple of stations. Traction and signalling works have begun and need to be completed. Over 90% of works have been completed."

He said, "Trial runs are set to begin by August-end. We will have two months to carry them out. The Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety needs to give the green signal for running trains along this stretch."

This would be the first stretch to be declared open in the Phase-2 project, which is estimated to cost Rs 30,095 crore. It was initially supposed to be opened by 2018-end. But it missed several deadlines, including the one that was set for the August 15 launch, as the Covid pandemic struck and a good number of workers left for their hometowns.

According to M S Channappagoudar, General Manger, Land Acquisitions, BMRCL, 71,890 square metre was acquired for the stretch and a compensation of Rs 364.52 crore was paid to those whose lands were acquired.

NCC Ltd had bagged the contract for civil works.

ROLLING TOGETHER

A couple skateboards through Cubbon Park in Bengaluru on a rainy Saturday evening | EXPRESS

EXPRESS READ

NRI ACCUSED OF BLACKMAILING, EXTORTING EX-GIRLFRIEND

Bengaluru: A 32-year-old man, based in Germany, has been accused of extorting money and blackmailing his ex-girlfriend. Nithish Kumar, who hails from Haryana, met the woman, who is from Bengaluru and has lived in Germany for a while, after befriending her on a social networking site. The woman alleged that she had visited his house in Germany last year and the duo had shared private moments. "She claimed that Kumar had recorded these moments and later threatened to release it on social media. He allegedly demanded money from her," police said. She later returned to Bengaluru and got married. A few days ago, he had allegedly shared her obscene photos with her husband and father on their mobile phone. Basavanagudi police have registered a case. ENS

Son, 3 others arrested for man's murder

ENS @Bengaluru

BENGALURU police on Saturday arrested four people for the kidnap and murder of a businessman.

Ramamurthy Nagar police arrested P Rajesh Kumar (26), and supari killers Parthiban, (29), Stany (25) and Anand (21) for the murder of builder Paneer Selvam (52) on Friday. Other accused are still at large.

On August 6, at a tea stall, Rajesh told the gang about his father's plan of visiting a temple near his house in Ramamurthynagar the next day.

The gang carried out their plan on Friday when Paneer Selvam was on his way to the temple. The gang abducted him in a rented car, injected him with poison, police said.

Police found that Rajesh had given a supari to kill his father on March 15.

SUNDAY INTERVIEW

'Party doesn't see me as just BSY's son, has recognised my good work'

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

Q&A

BY VIJAYENDRA

From losing out on being the probable candidate in the 2018 assembly elections to leading the BJP to a historic victory in Varuna constituency in the 2019 bypolls to now being appointed as the vice president of BJP Karnataka unit, B Y Vijayendra, son of Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, has come into his own. In an interview with *The New Sunday Express*, Vijayendra outlines his plans and explains why his appointment as a vice-president of the state unit cannot be seen through the prism of dynasty politics. Excerpts:

■ Did you anticipate this new role?
No. But I am grateful to my party leaders for entrusting me with this responsibility. BJP doesn't believe in dynasty politics but this is an exception because the party's leadership has faith in me. It is a great opportunity for me.

■ What are your goals for yourself and the party as its vice president?
As far as the organisation is concerned, there are a lot of areas that we need to work on like in Old Mysuru and Hyderabad Karnataka regions. We were stuck at 104 seats in the last elections. Yediyurappa has a dream of winning 150 plus seats in the next assembly polls and we need to work in that direction. Since we are in power at the Centre as well as in the State, there are a lot of expectations among the people. It is a Herculean task because of the prevailing Covid-19 crisis and the financial situation. I have to tour the State and understand the problems of the people, especially the youth, who lost jobs during the Covid-19 crisis. We need to work in the direction of bringing more employment and investments into Karnataka.

■ You were set to make your electoral debut from Varuna in the 2018 polls. What changed?
Though I was not interested in electoral politics, our workers in Varuna decided that someone like me should fight from the constituency. It was on their insistence that I decided to contest. Varuna was then CM Siddaramaiah's home turf and I wanted to take it up as a challenge. However, our leadership decided I should not contest and as a party worker I accepted their decision.

■ Is this one step closer to electoral politics for you?
I don't think in those terms at all. I will go with the party's directions. My goal is clear, I want to work in the organisation, travel across the State and meet our cadres.

■ BJP is a party that prides itself for standing against nepotism. But your father is the Chief Minister, your brother is an MP.
As far as B Y Raghavendra is concerned, if you go back to 2009, when he was made to contest, the party chose him. Yediyurappa did not request a seat for him or lobby. The party needed a candidate who could defeat a former CM like S Bangarappa. It wasn't an easy task and the party felt Raghavendra was its best bet. As for me, our Central or State leadership do not look at me as just my father's son. They have probably recognised the good work I had done during the KR Pete byelection and the Lok Sabha election and have given me this opportunity.

■ You were entrusted with ensuring a victory in KR Pete. What was your takeaway from it?
What I learnt from it was that people think beyond caste equations. Caste is a concept only in the minds of leaders whereas people are for development. Fortunately, the development works initiated in KR Pete when Yediyurappa was CM in 2009 helped. People felt reassured as Yediyurappa was the Chief Minister again. Despite not having a strong party base or cadre, our hard work as a team, our candidate Narayanagowda and Yediyurappa hailing from Mandya helped us in the victory.

■ How do you respond to allegations of your interference in Yediyurappa's administration?
It is easy for people to make such allegations against me or any member of the CM's family. I am only a bridge between the Chief Minister and party cadres. I have never interfered in official work nor have our MPs or ministers made such allegations. These are just rumours in the media and I do not give them much importance.

■ As Yediyurappa completes one year in office, there seems to be unrest in the party and government.
There may be some concerns. We have been in the opposition for the last six-seven years. MLAs are eager to ensure developmental activities in their constituencies. In the last few years, their constituencies did not receive funds or assistance from the earlier governments. Given the prevailing situation, the government has its limitations. As finance minister too, the Chief Minister has to maintain financial discipline. Having said that, there is no 'unrest'. Concerns are being addressed. Before the Covid-19 crisis, the CM met MLAs region-wise to understand their concerns and definitely things are improving.

The Netravati river crosses the danger mark following a heavy rainfall on Saturday | EXPRESS

Rising waters raise alarm

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

BATTERING rains may have subsided in parts of Karnataka, bringing some respite, but rivers flowing in full spate and rising water levels in dams continue to pose a threat to life and livelihoods. Citizens in low-lying areas downstream of dams, river basins and landslide-prone areas are still being evacuated and shifted to rehabilitation centres.

Ministers in charge of the different districts, including DyCM Govind Karjol, reviewed the situation and held meetings with officials regarding relief, rescue and rehabilitation efforts on Saturday. CM B S Yediyurappa is remotely monitoring the situation from his Covid-19 isolation ward at a private hospital in Bengaluru.

Even as landslides were witnessed in parts of Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru on Saturday, traffic on the Mysuru-Kozhikode highway came to a halt after water from the Kabini dam submerged the road.

In Dakshina Kannada, rain has submerged several areas in Bantwal and Belthangady, among others while the Netravati river is overflowing. A few houses in Sullia were also damaged due to landslides. NDRF is on standby in Navalgund taluk of Dharwad district which faces a threat of flooding from waters of Benni Halla and Tuppari Halla.

Revenue Minister R Ashoka, who is touring affected districts including Hassan and Dakshina Kannada, has asked the district authorities to use police force to evacuate families living in landslide and flood-prone places if they are reluctant to move.

Water Resources Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi visited inundated regions surrounding the Krishna river in Chikkodi-Belagavi on Saturday and met NDRF personnel apart from holding meetings with officials of his department on the prevailing situation. Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister K S Eshwarappa visited Hegalatti village in Tirthahalli taluk of Shivamogga district and directed officials to provide assistance to nine persons who lost their areca plantations in the flood.

Tourism Minister C T Ravi, who toured Mudigere taluk in Chikkamagalur, visited plantain plantations that have been ravaged due to rains. He later joined Civil Supplies Minister K Gopalaiah in offering 'bagina' at Yagachi reservoir. Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai visited Varada river basin and reviewed the situation in flood-hit Kudala and Neregal villages in Hangal taluk and Tavaramellali village in Savanur taluk in Haveri district.

Shivakumar visits Mysuru, Kodagu

KPCC President D K Shivakumar set out on a tour of Mysuru and Kodagu districts on Saturday to take stock of the situation. Shivakumar said he plans to visit flood-hit North Karnataka and Coastal Karnataka districts next. The KPCC president, who started his weekend tour to review damages in Hunsur on Saturday, will visit Madikeri and Bhagamandala before returning to Bengaluru on Sunday evening. "We will form four to five teams of Congress leaders and workers to tour all affected districts and prepare a report on the government's response, relief, and rehabilitation measures," he said.

Will Yediyurappa hoist Tricolour on August 15?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

INDEPENDENCE Day is approaching fast, and the biggest question that is bothering officials in the state is: Who is going to hoist the National Flag at the Manekshaw Parade Grounds in the State Capital? Traditionally, it is the chief minister. But with the incumbent B S Yediyurappa continuing to remain in hospital after testing positive for Covid-19, the buzz in political circles is who would the mantle pass on to among the three deputy chief ministers – Govind Karjol, Dr C N Ashwath Narayan or Laxman Savadi.

Political analyst Harish Ramaswamy said, "If the CM is indisposed, senior-most of the deputy chief ministers can be chosen to hoist the flag. The decision lies with the chief minister and the government. Among the three, Karjol is the seniormost."

But officials at the Chief Minister's Office said that Yediyurappa would be discharged by Monday. Asked what happens if he is not, the officials said that he can address the gathering through video-conferencing. Either way, the CM will take the decision on August 13, they said.

Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai was confident when he said, "The CM will attend the ceremony."

Taking the same vein, BJP spokesperson Go Madhusudhan too said, "The CM will be out of the hospital before August 15. If that does not happen, there are three deputy chief ministers who can hoist the flag in his absence."

In its Saturday bulletin, Manipal Hospital, where Yediyurappa is admitted, stated that his vital parameters are stable. The CM was asymptomatic when he was admitted last Sunday.

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पत्रांक: 487 **E- TENDER NOTICE** दि0 07.08.2020

The office of Executive Engineer (Maintenance), Maneri Bhali Stage-II, Chinyalisaur (Uttarkashi) invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below :
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Last date for submission of bids on website : - 03.09.2020 up to 16:00 Hrs.
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CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Joseph Vinoth Gnanaraj, S/o. Mr. Gnanaraj, Aged about 44 years & Amala Kumari Joseph, W/o. Mr. Joseph Vinoth Gnanaraj, aged about 37years, R/at #210, Sriven Paradise, 5th Cross, Laxmi Layout, Munnekolala, Marathahalli, Bengaluru 560037. We have changed our minor son's name from **'MAGNUS MICHEAL JOSEPH VINOTH'** to **'MAGNUS MICHEAL JOSEPH'** Vide affidavit dated 8.8.2020. Sworn before Advocate & Notary Indira S.S, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MOHAMED ASHFAQ ULLA**, R/o #32, Puris dreams, 4th Cross Road, Sahyadri layout, Sidedahalli, Nagasandra, Bangalore - 560073 have changed my name as **MOHAMMED ASHWAQ** vide affidavit dated 28.07.2020 sworn before notary Kodi Nagappaya, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **NOORJAHA MAZHER ALI**, R/at No.78, 10th Cross, Modi Road, Modi Masjid Left Side, D.J.Halli, Bengaluru-560045 have Changed my name to **MUMTAZ BANU** vide affidavit dated:7/08/2020 before Notary **A.R.Muneer Ahmed** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MAZHER ALI KHALIL**, R/at No.78, 10th Cross, Modi Road, Modi Masjid Left Side, D.J.Halli, Bengaluru-560045 have Changed my name to **MAZHER ALI** vide affidavit dated: 7/08/2020 before Notary **A.R.Muneer Ahmed** Bangalore.

I, **Nagarathna** W/o late T. Shivaiahchar, R/at No.319, 1st Floor, 6th Main, Motappana palya Road, Indiranagar, Bengaluru, do hereby declare that I am also called as **Rathnamma** and both the names **Nagarathna** and **Rathnamma** are one and the same. I have declared this through affidavit dated 4.8.2020 before the 2nd Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Smt. Chidri Sharanya W/o Sambhav Krishna S** Residing No. 276, 8th Main, 1st B Cross, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore-560079. Have changed my name as Chidri Sharanya to **SHARANYA SAMBHAV S** vide affidavit Dt: 30.07.2020 sworn before Notary B.S. Geetha Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **NEELAM SINGH** Spouse of JWO Vijay Pal Singh, residing at Room No.A10, SNCOs Mess, HQTC, IAF, Hebbal, JC Nagar Post, Bangalore-560006, have changed my name from **NEELAM SINGH** to **NILAM SINGH** vide affidavit no.268 dated 08-08-2020 at Bangalore.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client **B.PULLA REDDY** S/o B.C Venkata Reddy has **LOST** the Original Cancellation of Release Deeds No **BNS-1-17635-2018-19** and Original Release Deeds No **BNS-1-1763-2018-19** pertaining to Property No. 28/1, PID No. 82-67-28/1, Lakshmapuram, Halasuru, Bengaluru finder of the said documents pl. return the same to the undersigned.
MUNNER AHMED, Advocate & Notary
Near Metro Pillar No. 120,
Ulsoor, Bengaluru.

SBI INFRA MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS PVT. LTD.
(A wholly owned subsidiary of SBI)
Circle office, SBI LHO Building,
4th Floor, Pt. J N Marg, Kharvel Nagar,Bhubaneswar-751001
E-mail: headbhu.sbiims@sbi.co.in,Phone No. 0674-2600570/9867991919

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER FOR PROVIDING ARMED AND UN-ARMED GUARDS TO BE DEPLOYED AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS OF SBI OFFICES/BRANCHES UNDER BHUBANESWAR CIRCLE

SBI Infra Management Solutions Pvt Ltd. on behalf of SBI, Bhubaneswar Circle invites online e-Tender in two bid system from registered Private Security Agencies/ Companies for providing Armed and Un-armed guards at various locations of SBI Offices under Bhubaneswar Circle.

The interested eligible Security Agencies having experience of similar type of works may visit Banks website **www.sbi.co.in** under **"procurement news"** and download the application format. The last date and time of submission of tender is **18.08.2020 up to 4PM**. Further details on any addendum/ corrigendum/cancellation will be published in the Bank website (**www.sbi.co.in**).

Place : Bhubaneswar **Circle Head SBIIMS, Bhubaneswar**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the General Public that our clients **Mr. GEORGE A. O** S/o Late A. V Ouseph and **Mrs. JANCY GEORGE** W/o Mr. George A.O are intending to purchase the "Schedule Property" mentioned hereunder from **Mr. JOPHY JOSE** S/o Mr. V. V Jose and **Mrs. LIGI JOPHY** W/o Mr. Jophy Jose V. Any Person/s, Banks, Financial Institution., etc. objecting for the proposed sale or having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the "Schedule property" are hereby called upon to file their objections/ claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the advocate mentioned herein failing which our clients shall proceed and complete the Sale transaction with the above stated person.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of the Flat No. 104, "8" Block, bearing Khatha No. 150200100500520128 of shanthipura Gram Panchayath, located in First Floor, of the Apartment Complex **"ARATT MILANO"**, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District having 3 Bedroom with super built up area of 1326 Square Feet, Carpet Area 1056 Square Feet with car parking bearing No. 45 in the Ground Floor constructed on the land bearing Sy. No. 32/1, (converted from agriculture to non-agriculture residential purpose as per the Official Memorandum No. ALN (ASH): SR: 44/2014-15, dated 03.09.2014, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore) measuring an extent of 01 Acre 29 Guntas, Khatha bearing No. 150200100500520020 of Shanthipura Gram Panchayath, Anekal Taluk, situated at Gattahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN, M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
No.235 (Old No.13), 9th Main, 4th Block, Near SLV Uniworth Classic Apts, Maruthi Badavane, Hennur Cross, Kalyan Nagar Post, Bangalore 560 043.
Ct:-9845846428, 9108784843, 080-48658774.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the General Public that our client **Mrs. GANKI DEVI** W/o. Mr. Raju Ram, No.17, Purnanjeya Layout, 3rd Cross, Hennur Main Road, Bangalore is intending to purchase the "Schedule Property" mentioned hereunder from **MR.C.R. MUNIRAJU and MR.C.R. VENKATARAJU**, both sons of Mr.M. Rangappa, Channsandra Village, Devagal Hobli, Kolar Taluk, Kolar Hobli. Any Person/s, Banks, Financial Institution., etc. objecting for the proposed sale or having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the "Schedule property" are hereby called upon to file their objections/ claims what so ever along with documentary proof within Five days from the date of publication of this notice with the advocate mentioned herein failing which our clients shall proceed and complete the Sale transaction with the above stated person.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of the immovable **Property bearing No. 131/131/1, BBMP Katha No.154/131/1, Old Katha No.931/131/1, Situated at Bileshivale Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru,** measuring East to West 24 Feet, and North to South 60 Feet, in all measuring 1440 Square Feet, now this property coming under the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Ward No. 54, along with a commercial and residential building standing thereon & bounded on: **East by :** Private Property, **West by :** Private Property, **North by :** Road, **South by :** Road.

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN, M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
No.235 (Old No.13), 9th Main, 4th Block, Near SLV Uniworth Classic Apts, Maruthi Badavane, Hennur Cross, Kalyan Nagar Post, Bangalore 560 043.
Ct:-9845846428, 9845424467, 080-48658774.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client **Sri. Brig.M.Chandrashekaran** S/o Late N.G.K. Nair, residing at # 49, Dwaraka Krishnappa Garden, C.V.Raman Nagar, Bangalore-560093, is hereby bringing to the notice of the public that, our client had executed a GPA dated 22.06.2018 and Sale Agreement dated 22-06-2018 in respect of Schedule Property for selling in favour of **Sri. GUDDEGOWDA P.K**, S/o Late Karigowda, residing at No.251, 3rd Main Road, 4th Cross, Kalayana Nagar, Nagarabhavi 1st Stage, Bangalore-560072. And both GPA and Sale Agreement are unregistered document. We have issued legal notice on 09-07-2020. thereby we have cancelled and revoked GPA dated 22-06-2018 as well as Agreement of Sale dated 22-06-2018 executed by our client in favour of you. We have cancelled GPA as well as Agreement of Sale by this Public Notice and no longer the above documents exists.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that the piece and parcel of Site bearing No.46, **situated at Arkavathi Layout, 20th Block, (Sy. No. 18 of Hennur Village)** Measuring East to West: 15 Meters and North to South: 24 Meters, **totally 360 Square Meters** and bounded on the:-

East by : Site No.45, **West by :** Site No.47, **North by :** Site No.55. **South by :** Road.

SOMASHEKAR C ANGADI UMASHANKAR.N, Advocate
No. 732/A, 5th Cross, Vijayanagara, BANGALORE-560 040.
email : us.srsassociates@gmail.com
Mob: 7975968369 / 9731278242
Place : Bangalore Date : 09-08-2018

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client Smt. Sarita. H, W/o. Huckmi Chand D, Residing at No. 57/1, G. Street, Jogupalya, Halasuru, Bengaluru - 560 008 intended to purchase all that piece and parcel of the property bearing Survey Numbers 95/1, of Doddadasarahalli Village, Jadagena Halli Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, measuring to an extent of 0-30 Guntas and bounded on East by: Property belongs to Munishyamanna, West by: Property belongs to Narayan Swamy, South by: Property belongs to Sethu, North by: Property belongs to Ma: Shriramanna, from it's previous owner Shri. H. Rajesh, S/o. A. Hanumanthe Gowda, R/o. 130/1, Immadi Halli, Whitefield Post, Bengaluru - 560 066. Any person/s, entity, firm, institution (corporate or otherwise) claiming to have any right / title interest in the schedule property either as owner or in any other manner objecting for alienation of the same lodge their objections with documentary proof within 15 days from the date of Publication of this notice with the undersigned failing which my client shall proceed with the purchase of the Schedule Property and any claims thereafter will be considered as waived.
Sd/- Shantakumar V, Advocate,
No. 195/4, 1st Main, 2nd Cross,
Kempegowda Nagar, T. Dasarahalli,
Bengaluru - 560 057
Mob: 98802 26034.

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Supervisors' Training Centre
Bangalore 560023
CORRIGENDUM-1
Cancellation of Tender

The work called for Hiring of one AC Vehicle for the use of Director/STC/SBC for a period of Two Years through E-Tender on contract basis vide Tender Notice No.STC/SBC/01/2020-21 dtd: 13/07/2020 with closing date/time on 17.08.2020 at 15.30 hours has been cancelled due to administrative reason.

The cancellation of tender notice uploaded in the website: **www.ireps.gov.in**

Supervisors Training Centre,
South Western Railway, Bangalore-560023
PUB/51/AAP/PRB/SBC/2020-21

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **Sri. M. SURESH S/o Sri. MAHALINGE GOWDA,** Aged about 43 years, R/at No.2490, 1st Block, Sir M V Layout, Bangalore-560060, the owner of the below property has lost the Original document of Sale Deed between Sri. N Subbanna S/o Sri Late S Ningaiah and Government Employees House Building Co-operative Society (R) Myosre in Sub-registrar, Mysore North, bearing register No.MYN-1-21973-2010-11, CD No.MYND267 Dated 26.02.2011. In this regard has also lodge the Police Complaint for the report before the Bengaluru City Police, vide Lost Report bearing No. 089453/2020, Dated 24.07.2020. In case any person/s finds the aforesaid document kindly return it to the address mentioned above.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of immovable property in The Manasi Layout developed in Mysore District, Mysore Taluk, Kasaba Hobli, Hanchya Village, in Survey No.155/1,2,3, 156, 157 to 160, 161/1,2, 170, 171/1,2, 174, 176/1a,1b,2b2, 176/2,3,4, 177/1,2 including karab lands **total measuring land 76 Acres 31 Guntas by the Government Employees's House Building Co-Operative Society Ltd., Mysore.** Residential Property bearing **Block No.9, Site No.2** measuring East to West 60' feet and North to South 40' feet Total measuring 2400 square feet in MANASI NAGAR bounded on: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Sites No.38 and 39, **North by:** Site No.03, **South by:** Site No.01.

pnb Housing Finance Limited

Regd. Office : 9th Floor, Antriksh Bhawan, 22, K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110 001
Ph. : 011-23357171, 23357172, 23705414, Website : www.pnbhousing.com
BRANCH ADDRESS :- 7 Kyd Street, Kankaria Mansion, 5th Floor, Kolkata -700016,
Phone - 033-66086701 to 799, Email: kolkata@pnbhousing.com, website:- www.pnbhousing.com

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF CHAPTER III OF SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002, READ WITH RULE 3(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 AMENDED AS ON DATE

We, **the PNB Housing Finance Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "PNBHFL") had issued Demand notice U/s 13(2) of Chapter III of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the "Act") by our Kolkata Branch office situated at 7 Kyd Street, Kankaria Mansion, 5th Floor, Kolkata -700016.** The said Demand Notice was issued through our Authorized Officer, to you all below mentioned Borrowers/Co-Borrower/Guarantors since your account has been classified as Non-Performing Assets as per the Reserve Bank of India/National Housing Bank guidelines due to nonpayment of instalments/ interest. The contents of the same are the defaults committed by you in the payment of installments of principals, interest, etc. The outstanding amount is mentioned below. Further, with reasons, we believe that you are evading the service of Demand Notice and hence this Publication of Demand Notice which is also required U/s 13(2) of the said Act. You are hereby called upon to pay PNBHFL within a period of 60 Days of the date of publication of this demand notice the aforesaid amount along with up-to-date interest and charges, failing which PNBHFL will take necessary action under all or any of the provisions of Section 13(4) of the said Act, against all or any one or more of the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and guarantors.
Your kind attention is invited to provisions of sub-Section (8) of Section13 of the of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 where under you can tender/pay the entire amount of outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the PNB HFL only till the date of publication of the notice for sale of the secured assets by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty. Please also note that if the entire amount of outstanding dues together with the costs, charges and expenses incurred by the PNB HFL is not tendered before publication of notice for sale of the secured assets by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty, you may not be entitled to redeem the secured asset(s) thereafter.
FURTHER you are prohibited U/s 13(13) of the said Act from transferring either by way of sale, lease or in any other way the aforesaid secured assets.

S. No.	Loan Account No.	Name/Address of Borrower & Co-Borrower	Name/ Address of Guarantor	Property Mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice	Amount O/s as on Date of Demand Notice
1.	HOU/KOL/ 0317/370105	**Mr. Prateek Poddar,** Premises No-21, Belvedereroad, 74 Alipore, **Kolkata-700027, West Bengal Also To Mr. Prateek Poddar, M/s Jyoti Holdings Pvt Ltd, Through Its Authorised Director/Signatory,** Premises No.- 4, Fairlie Place, Ground Floor, **Kolkata, West Bengal-700001 Also To Mr. Prateek Poddar, M/s Jyoti Holdings Pvt Ltd, Through Its Authorised Director/signatory,** Krsna Laburnum, 1st Floor, Flat No. B1, Katha No. 28/7, Hikkamaranahalli, Plot No. 559, RMV 2nd Stage, New Bel Road, Scientific Nursery Complex, Sy. No. 24/5, **Bangalore, Karnataka-560094 Also To Mr Prateek Poddar, M/s Jyoti Holdings Pvt Ltd Through Its Authorised Director/signatory** Krsna Laburnum, 2ndfloor, Flat No B2, Katha No. 28/7, Hikkamaranahalli, Plot No. 559, RMV 2nd Stage, New Bel Road, Scientific Nursery Complex, Sy. No. 24/5, **Bangalore, Karnataka-560094.**	**Darjeeling Tea & Chinchona Association Limited, Through Its Authorised Director/ signatory** Premises No- 4, Fairlie Place, **Kolkata, West Bengal-700001**	**Property I** Krsna Laburnum, 1st Floor, Flat No. B1, Katha No. 28/7, Chikkamaranahalli, Bangalore, Plot No.- 559, RMV 2nd stage, New BEL Road, Scientific Nursery Complex,. Survey No 24/5, **Bangalore, Karnataka-560094, Build U.P. Area 2631 Sq.ft. Property II** Krsna Laburnum, 2nd Floor, Flat No.- B2, Katha No. 28/7, Chikkamaranahalli, Bangalore, Plot No. 559, RMV 2nd stage, New BEL Road, Scientific Nursery Complex, Survey No. 24/5, **Bangalore, Karnataka-560094, Build Up Area 2631 Sq.ft.**	31.07.2020	**Rs. 4,85,74,119.46** (Rupees Four Core Eighty Five Lac Seventy Four Thousand One Hundred Nineteen and Forty Six Paisa Only) **as on 28.07.2020**

PLACE :- KOLKATA, DATE : 09.08.2020 **AUTHORIZED OFFICER, PNB HOUSING FINANCE LTD.**

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THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

COVID-19

04 BENGALURU SUNDAY 09.08.2020

TRACKING COVID-19

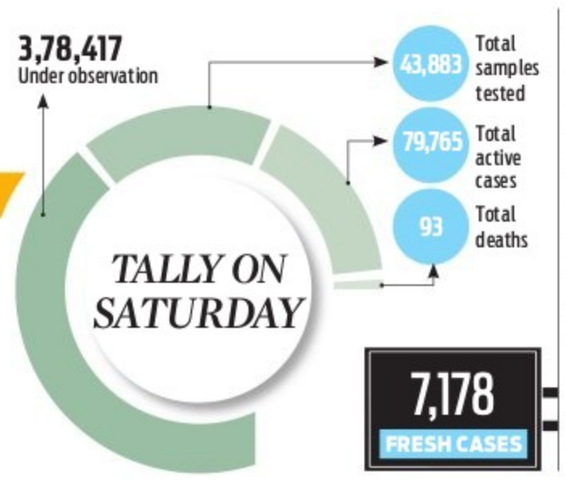
Of the 7,000+ fresh positive cases recorded on Saturday, the majority were reported from Bengaluru Urban again — 2,665

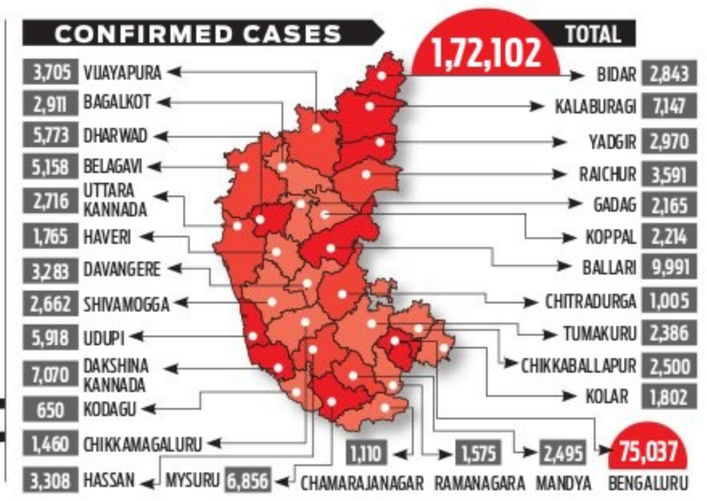
5,006 NEW RECOVERIES

89,238 TOTAL RECOVERED

HELPLINES
080-46848600
080-66692000

104 Arogya Sahayavani will function too





ACT RESPONSIBLY

'GROUP BEHAVIOUR CAN HELP FLATTEN CURVE'

Experts say people should maintain social distancing, wear masks

The swab collection kiosk at Belagavi Civil Hospital, which was damaged in a mob attack, remains unrepaired | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

CHETANA BELAGERE @Bengaluru

KARNATAKA is fourth in the list of top 10 states making the biggest contribution to Covid-19 cases in the country.

Its efforts to fight the pandemic hinge on how people behave towards the virus, rather than the biological characteristics of the microorganism, epidemiologists believe. "What is more important is the group behaviour now. Preventing ourselves from getting infected is the best chance we have. Individual and community responsibility is crucial," said Dr Giridhara R Babu, senior epidemiologist and a member of the advisory committee to state government on Covid.

Community medicine experts and immunologists, who have handled healthcare systems when they were run over by conflicts, disasters and emergencies, say that every individual's behaviour and his self-motivated effort matters during these times. "Covid has shown that it has the ability to overwhelm healthcare systems around the world. In Karnataka too, we have been overburdened. In such situations, what matters is how people behave in response to the real and perceived risks. Historically, it has been proven that behavioural factors play a large part in slowing and stopping the spread of a disease," said a senior community health expert.

Dr Suneela Garg, Director and Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Maulana Azad Medical College, said during a webinar organised by the Association of Healthcare Providers (India) on Friday that there has been a shift in Covid epicentres over the last one month.

> **If community transmission begins, isolation and quarantine will have a limited or no role to play**
>
> Suneela Garg, Director and Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Maulana Azad Medical College

Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have emerged as fresh hotspots, while Delhi is faring much better. "If community transmission begins, isolation and quarantine will have a limited or no role to play, while community-driven social changes, such as wearing masks, washing hands regularly and maintaining social distancing, become more important. Community transmission in a country like India may prove to be catastrophic," she explained.

"There is a tendency to meet in groups, celebrate and hold functions in large numbers. These should definitely be avoided," said Dr Babu.

The Outbreak Communications Planning Guide of the World Health Organization suggests that behaviour changes can reduce the spread by as much as 80%. "This also means that government and public health agencies should implement the policies of limited group gatherings to less than 50, ensure people who are attending these wear masks and their temperatures are checked. If governments get it right and nudge behaviour in the right direction, the resources available to fight the disease will go much further," said Dr Shashikiran Umakanth, Prof and Head, Department of Medicine, and also Nodal officer for Covid at Dr TMA Pai Hospital, Udupi.

One should completely avoid large gatherings, especially religious and political ones. The government should work towards eliminating the stigma around Covid, encourage people to come forward for testing, help them isolate themselves and ensure they don't spread the disease.

Surge continues: 7K cases in one day

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

AFTER continuing the streak of recording 6,000 plus cases daily, the State recorded the highest with 7,178 positive cases on Saturday. The total tally now stands at 1,72,102.

The State also crossed its 3,000 mark after recording 93 new deaths. A total of 3,091 deaths have been reported until August 8.

Of the 7,178 positive cases, on Saturday, 2,665 were from Bengaluru Urban alone and this brings its tally to 72,237 cases.

SARI and ILI cases continue to contribute to the death of the patients, along with co-morbidities. So far, over 15,781 ILI cases have been recorded and 3,346 SARI cases. The highest number of deaths occurred are of those above the 60 years age group at 1,428.

Even though the State Covid fatality rate has come down, the deaths have been 80 plus on a daily basis. And now with BBMP having assigned booth level task officers to check on co-morbid persons and isolate them and also continuing follow-up checks once in 10 days, might help in keeping a tab on the vulnerable population.

A massive crowd of travellers show their documents to officials at the K'taka-TN border checkpost on Hosur Road, near Attibele, Bengaluru | MEGHANA SASTRY

According to Dr Shashikiran Umakanth, Professor and head, Department of Medicine, and nodal officer for Covid-19 at Dr TMA Pai Hospital, Udupi, the number of cases will eventually go up. Nearly 50 to 70 per cent of the population will get infected but the problem is that not everyone can be tested. "It is better to accept that community transmission has happened and then work around it. There are many asymptomatic patients who might be spreading it and hence the transmission cycle is getting stronger. Only encouraging group behaviours can help in this situation," he said.

Amongst the districts, Bengaluru Urban has been recording a high number of cases. However, in terms of the positivity rate for the past 15 days, the district with the highest percentage is Bengaluru Rural with 22.7%, followed by Ballari with 22% and Bengaluru Urban with 21.3%.

The State also reported a high number of discharges crossing the 5,000 mark with 5,006, taking the and the total discharges are 89,238.

As fatalities hit 3,000-mark, more committees formed to 'study' deaths

CHETANA BELAGERE @Bengaluru

WITH the number of deaths touching the 3,000-mark in the state, the government is still struggling to study reasons behind Covid mortalities and continues to form more committees.

The latest is the one ordered by Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar to study the spike in deaths at the ESI Hospital in Rajajinagar, Bengaluru. He made the announcement after visiting the government facility on Saturday.

Earlier this month, Deputy Chief Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan had ordered another committee to study pandemic-linked deaths specifically in Bengaluru and to find out reasons behind the spike in toll.

Already, a state-level Death Audit Committee, headed by Dr S Sacchidanand, Vice-Chancellor, RGUHS, and a member of Covid 19 taskforce, exists since April. Till July, the committee had audited only 80 deaths, which accounted for just 16 per cent of total deaths till then.

"There are more committees now, but very little work seems to be happening. The state death audit committee wants every district to have its own committee as they feel the burden on them is high. If this is the case then who's collating the data? Who are the experts? Till now, only about 90-100 deaths out deaths have been studied," said a senior doctor on the advisory committee to the state government.

Dr Sudhakar told the media, "Till now, 421 patients have been admitted to ESI Hospital out, Of them, 54 patients have died. The mortality rate is as high as 12.8% and there is a need to understand the reason behind these mortalities. The medical officer at the hospital said that more number of cancer patients are getting admitted into this hospital, adding to the number of deaths. Also, patients are coming to the hospital often at later stages of infection which is also a reason for the high mortality rate. However, the death audit has been ordered and the same will be submitted to the government."

A BBMP worker on sanitation duty on JC Road in Bengaluru | SHRIRAM BN

BASICS LACKING

Complaints galore against Mysuru CCC

AJITH M S @Mysuru

THE Covid Care Centre in Mandakalli is at the receiving end of patients' ire for mismanagement, lack of basic infrastructure and poor hygiene.

The centre, which is functioning at a KSOU-owned building and run by the local administration, has over 354 Covid-19 patients as on Friday, and but has the capacity to admit over 550 patients.

A patient who did not wish to be named told *TNIE* that her stay at the centre was miserable, forcing her to opt for home isolation instead. "There were issues with basic amenities such as water, power, and a complete lack of hygiene. Rooms were not cleaned regularly and the common washrooms are filthy," she said.

The woman, who has other health issues, said her concerns regarding these conditions were not addressed adequately by the doctors.

A video that was reportedly taken inside the CCC, is circulating on social media. In it, patients are seen confronting officials, demanding a resolution of issues.

A woman in the video is seen talking about uncleared garbage, filthy washrooms, and messy wards. Another person is heard complaining about lack of routine medical check-ups.

DC Abhiram G Shankar told TNSE that the District Nodal Officer had said the video was taken five days ago, when there was a change in housekeeping staff.

He said complaints would be resolved, and concerns raised by patients at the Mandakalli CCC had been addressed.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Coronavirus has disrupted global supply chain, say experts

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

DISRUPTIONS are normal but Covid-19 has thrown a huge challenge to the world disrupting the global supply chain. "Many of us had to close operations and make decisions that affect livelihoods, leaving people helpless. It makes us wonder what we could have done differently, said Jim Rice, deputy director, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Center for Transportation and Logistics (CTL).

Rice was speaking on 'Supply Chain and Seven Core Resilience Capabilities' in a virtual forum organised by the Bengaluru-based strategic think tank 'Synergia Foundation' on Friday. He said that the Covid pandemic is "unique".

The loss of the seven core resilience capabilities — acquiring materials, transporting, capacity to communicate, convert, human resources, financial flows and distribution to customers – in the pandemic is greater than any other disaster. "There are infinite ways that supply chains are affected. Can the organisations mitigate every source of financial, strategic, operational risk? Not really," said Rice.

"Covid has caused huge losses in transport, finance and all the resilience capabilities. Fortunately, many of these capabilities have been recreated using online resources," he added.

Janat Shah, Director, IIM, Udaipur, said that disruptions are inevitable. "Lack of disruptions can be worrying. But the issue with Covid-19 is that it is different in scale, scope and timeframe," said Shah.

Assessing the impact of the pandemic on the industry, Shah said that some industries like hospitality and travel are going to be badly affected. There are, however, some medium-scale firms, which were agile and quick to respond to the emerging needs in the pandemic.

"One Bengaluru-based company, before the lockdown, made sure that laptops and facilities were available to homes. They have increased the number of customers too," he said.

He added that "risk management, being aware of our vulnerabilities and our response to the disruptions should be on top of the agenda."

Udayant Malhoutra, CEO and MD, Dynamatic Technologies, spoke about the challenge the industry is facing in balancing resilience, agility and economic flexibility.

GIVING BACK

Plasma saves his life: Senior cardiologist from Bengaluru thanks 21-yr-old donor

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaludu

KUNAL Garna, a 21-year-old businessman from Bengaluru, has donated plasma twice and saved six precious lives.

It was way back in March that Kunal was infected with Covid-19 when he returned from the UK after completing his studies. He was shifted to KC General Hospital, where he was cured and discharged. But in the first few months of the pandemic, the process of plasma donation had not begun and the number Covid cases too was low in the city.

In June, he got a call from HCG Hospital, asking if he would be willing to donate plasma, and he readily agreed. He donated his plasma on June 15 and also told to the hospital authorities that he was willing to donate his plasma more number of times.

Kunal told *TNSE*, "Years ago, I had donated platelets, and I'm a regular blood donor. So, I was open to plasma donation too. Initially, my parents were a little scared, but I told them that it could help save lives of critical patients, and they agreed. I have B-positive plasma, and I felt good when I donated it the first time. It is painless and takes just about one hour. I told HCG doctors that I was open to more plasma donations. The gap between two donations is minimum 15 days."

In July, a senior cardiologist, Dr Natesh B H , from Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, was diagnosed with Covid. Soon, his condition deteriorated and he was admitted to the ICU at a private hospital on Bannerghatta Road. Though he was administered high-flow nasal oxygen and Remdesivir drug, his condition deteriorated further, and that was when plasma therapy was considered.

In July-end, Kunal donated his plasma again and it was given to Dr Natesh. Miraculously, the doctor recovered within three days and was shifted to the ward after spending five days in the ICU.

"I had no clue who my plasma was given to. The doctor had a video-conference with me and thanked me profusely which made me feel good that it saved someone's life. Even in future, I'm open to more donations, and also, more people cured of Covid should come forward and donate plasma. I was told that my plasma has helped save more than four lives," he added.

Dr Natesh said, "Plasma therapy is important for critical patients. We need more donors to come forward."

Dr Vishal Rao, who started the plasma bank and got a clearance from the Drug Control General of India for plasma therapy in the state, said, "We have been telling people from the beginning that plasma therapy is important, and it is helping many patients. So far, 45 patients have donated their plasma and we have got 233 volunteers."

He explained that 500 ml of plasma is taken from a donor and 200 ml is given to the recipient. Kunal's plasma has been given to two patients and he has already enrolled for the third donation.

Serosurveillance - which estimates the presence of antibodies against an infectious disease and measures a population's immunity to the infection - has begun in four districts of Andhra Pradesh

CRASH POSES COVID RISK FOR HEALTH DEPT

Department to set up a separate team, control room for passengers, crew of flight, asks hospitals to regularly release status of patients

DILEEP V KUMAR @T'Puram

THE aircraft mishap has come as a big challenge for the Health Department during its Covid prevention measures. In this backdrop, the department has decided to initiate a slew of measures, including sending the rescue volunteers to 14-day room quarantine. The department will also set up a separate health team and control room to coordinate the activities concerning the treatment of the passengers and crew members involved in the mishap. It has also come out with a word of caution to protect the admitted patients, hospital staff and others from Covid-19 at hospitals in Kozhikode and Malappuram.

"In the context of Covid-19, some urgent interventions will have to be made. Also, one of the passengers has been tested positive for the virus. The results of others are awaited. Though the swift action of the local residents and other agencies are appreciable, the pandemic situation warrants for caution and thus they were sent to quarantine," said a health official.

In a directive, the department stated that after the rescue work is over, all volunteers are requested to go for room quarantine in their houses for the next 14 days. They are also requested to wash the clothes they wore during rescue operation thoroughly with soap and water or one per cent bleach solution.

"The volunteers will be tested for Covid-19 if they become symptomatic. A health team will telephonically monitor the volunteers in quarantine twice a day," said the directive.

Meanwhile, in the case of air passengers/crew members undergoing treatment at hospitals, the department stipulates that only one relative of the patient will be permitted as a bystander. The department also stated that the hospital authorities will issue medical bulletin updating the status of every patient three times daily- at noon, 4pm and at 8pm.

The mangled remains of the Air India Express flight that crashed at Karipur International Airport, in Kozhikode on Saturday | MANU R MAVELIL

Victim donated money for poor

Malappuram: Shafi Parakkulam, an expat, could not believe the death of his friend, Sharafudheen, 35, a native of Pilassery (Kozhikode), who was on board with 184 other passengers. Shafi said Sharafudheen visited him at his hotel in Dubai before leaving to Kerala. "He visited me at my hotel and handed me some money to feed the poor," Shafi wrote on his Facebook post.

Passengers: Pilot gave no warning

Kasaragod: "All the pilot said was we will be touching down shortly," said Abdul Rafee A Hameed (39), a former insurance executive with Emirates NBD Bank. He was among the 190 people on board the Vande Bharat flight that crash-landed on Friday night. Usually, the pilot informs passengers about the local time and the weather outside, Rafee said. "It was raining heavily. But there was no mention of anything," he said.

One-yr-old's first and last journey home

AMIYA MEETHAL @Kozhikode

ONE-year-old Azam Muhammad did not set foot on his homeland. Born to Vellimadukunnu native Nijaz and Kakkad native Sahira Banu in Dubai, his maiden journey to Kerala to see his maternal grandfather Mohammed and other relatives turned out to be his final one.

His mother, the 29-year old Sahira Banu, too succumbed to the mishap that happened at the Kozhikode airport on Friday night. Azam's siblings — eight-year-old Lahan Muhammad and four-year old Mariyam Binth Muhammad sustained injuries and are recuperating in two different hospitals in the district.

Azam was on his mother's lap while the aircraft attempted to land and then skidded off the runway.

"Banu and three kids boarded the flight to Kozhikode on Friday while Nijaz preferred to stay back. Among their relatives, only Banu's mother Sakeena had seen the infant as she was in Dubai to assist during delivery," Banu's relative T Aziz told *TNSE*.

All other relatives, particularly Mohammed, were eagerly waiting to see Azam. After the crash, Banu was admitted to a private hospital in Kondotty where she breathed her last. Azam died at the Government Medical College Hospital, Kozhikode. while Mariyam was admitted to the Baby Memorial Hospital and Lahan to the Meitra Hospital.

Officials hand over the body of two-year-old Sheza Fathima to her kin at Kozhikode Medical College Hospital on Saturday | TP SOORAJ

Plane touched down near mid-point of runway

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ANOTHER theory is that tailwind (wind that blows in the direction of travel of the aircraft) caused the plane to skid off. The data accessed by *TNIE* revealed there was only 12.7 knots of tailwind at the time. "The narrow-bodied aircraft can operate in tailwind up to 15 knots. So, that possibility can also be ruled out," Jacob said.

An Airport Authority of India staff, who witnessed the accident, said the pilot attempted to land on runway 28 first. But it didn't come through due to bad weather and the aircraft circled the airport a couple of times. When it again approached the runway, the visibility was around 2,000 metres, and the pilot was given permission for landing. But things took a turn for the worse as the plane touched down almost past mid-way of the 2,860-metre runway, while the threshold marking for touchdown is about 300 metres from the start.

While experts said only decoding of data from the black-box can reveal what went wrong, they pointed out that in the 2010 Mangaluru air crash, the pilots of Air India Express flight IX-812 misjudged the length of the runway while landing and then tried to get the plane airborne again.

Experts said before making a belly landing, the ATC has to be alerted to make preparations. No such communication passed between the cockpit crew and the ATC in this case, said airport staff.

The wife of a victim walks through pouring rain to the mortuary of Kozhikode Medical College Hospital on Saturday | TP SOORAJ

Runway was of inadequate length

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ONE major drawback of the runway is the inadequate length of the Runway End Safety Area (RESA) which is one of the imperatives for the operation of aircraft under Code E. Later, the airport authorities tried to widen the RESA from 90 to 240 metres. The widening of the RESA and recarpeting work of the runway had helped the airport get conditional nod from DGCA to operate wide-bodied aircraft.

Though the aircraft involved in Friday's accident doesn't belong to Code E category, experts are anticipating more restrictions in the coming days.

Some experts say the authorities are to be blamed as no lesson was learnt from the Mangalore accident. According to aviation safety expert Mohan Ranganathan, many airports in the country are safe only on paper as audits are not done strictly.

Nearly a decade ago, Ranganathan had pointed that the Runway 10 of the Kozhikode airport could be risky for landing in tailwind conditions during rainy season to the then chairman of Civil Aviation Safety Advisory Council and other authorities. According to Charan Dass, former joint DG at DGCA, simulator training before every rainy season needs to be done properly, because it can come handy in real-life situations. Aviation safety activist Yeshwanth Shenoy says it is 'complete failure' of the DGCA.

'If we do not insist that they learn Kannada, who will?'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE TOEFL is a standardised test to gauge the English language skills of non-native speakers wishing to enroll in English-speaking universities.

Preliminary meetings in this connection have already been conducted. The KDA chairman said short-term coaching classes will be conducted for the benefit of those wanting to take up studies or work in the state. "If we do not insist that they learn Kannada, who will? When IAS and IPS officers posted here, especially from outside Karnataka, can learn the language, why can't others'"? he questioned. If implemented, Karnataka will be the first state to do so, Nagabharana stressed.

"This can be a model for other states to have a similar mechanism," he added.

EXPRESS READ

Help teachers, guest faculty: HDK to State

Bengaluru: Former CM H D Kumaraswamy asked the State government to clear pending salaries of about 2.5 lakh private teachers and guest faculty. He said more than 20,000 private schools have not paid their staff since April. He urged the government to take up the issue with schools. "The government must step in with some relief," he said. ENS

Study NEP, Nadda tells new BJP office-bearers

Bengaluru: BJP national president J P Nadda on Saturday praised the state government for its 'impressive performance' in handling Covid-19 and floods, while addressing the new office-bearers. He said, "Study the NEP 2020 in detail so that you can spread its message." The meeting was presided over by BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel. ENS

Large Industries Minister Jagadish Shettar recently inaugurated a unique high-speed multipack tetra manufacturing line at the Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages factory in Bidadi Industrial Area, near Bengaluru. The newly installed tetra pack line for juice drinks is uniquely designed for integrated processing, filling and packaging of the product. Dinesh Jadhav, Executive Director, Market Operations, HCCB, Alok Sharma, Executive Director, Supply Chain, Mohan Singh, Vice-President, Supply Chain, Southern Cluster; M Chandrasekar, AVP, Public Affairs and Communications, South, and Bheemannappa Manthale, Factory Manager, were present on the occasion.

FLOOD FURY

At least 100 roads, bridges damaged across K'taka

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

EVEN as the state government is still getting roads and bridges that were damaged in last year's floods repaired, it has to deal with a new challenge now. In less than three days, at least 100 roads, culverts and bridges have been damaged in the floods and heavy rain across Karnataka, said Public Works Department (PWD) officials.

Last year's floods had caused extensive damage to roads and bridges, cutting off connectivity between many towns and villages. PWD officials had estimated a sum of Rs 7,900 crore to fix the damages. A year later, more than 70 per cent of these roads, bridges and culverts have been repaired. The remaining works couldn't be taken up due to unavailability of labourers in the last few months, owing to Covid-19.

"The next few days are crucial, as many other roads, bridges and culverts are expected to be damaged. This year, we have made arrangements for alternate routes for the broken roads and bridges," a PWD official said on anonymity.

PWD Secretary Guruprasad said they have formed hundreds of teams across the state, especially in the Ghat sections, including Dakshina Kannada and Kodagu districts where earthmovers have been placed every 15 to 20 km. "There will be a dedicated team to clear trees, remove soil that has blocked roads due to landslides. In many places, it has already been cleared. As and when we get calls, these teams will be sent to the spot," he said.

He told TNSE that the damages have been reported in Belagavi, Bagalote, Uttara Kannada, Kodagu, parts of Hassan, and other places. "At present, water has stagnated on these roads and bridges have been submerged. Only after the water subsides, can we accurately assess the damages," he said.

Body of girl who got washed away in floods found

Dharwad: After conducting a 48-hour-long search operation, the body of eight-year-old Shridevi Ganiger, who got washed away in a flash flood at Ganjigatti village of Kalghatagi taluk on Thursday afternoon, was fished out by NDRF and Fire and Emergency Services personnel on Saturday. Sources said the body was trapped in a maze field near Bedthi River, which is around 1.5 km from the area where the girl got washed away. "It is a wait-and-watch situation for villagers as we have to see if the authorities now plan to build a bridge to ease our movement," a villager added. A case has been registered at Kalghatgi police station. ENS

Streets in Nanjangud were inundated on Saturday | UDAYSHANKAR S

Mysuru-Nanjangud highway flooded

K SHIVAKUMAR @Mysuru

THE continuous downpour and the overflowing Kabini have flooded the Mysuru-Nanjangud Highway, disrupting vehicular traffic on the busy Mysuru-Calicut National Highway.

Irrigation officials discharged 78,000 cusecs of water from Kabini and Nugu reservoirs as they received water in their catchment areas due to heavy rain in Wayanad and other neighbouring places. The discharge has flooded Malanamoole Mutt, Basaveshwara temple and submerged the highway, forcing authorities to divert vehicles via Thandavapura, Kempesiddaiahna Hundi to reach Nanjangud. They have also routed vehicles through Kattawadipura to reach Mysuru. This has caused a problem for the Mysuru vegetable market as dozens of trucks transport vegetables and fruits to Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Farmers fear that this will lead to a fall in demand.

Meanwhile, the portion of the temple town in and around Srikanteshwara temple is inundated. The NDRF rescue teams with boats have arrived at the bathing steps of Parashurama and Anjaneya temples as they are submerged. Gollur and Srikanteshawara temple on Chamarajnagar Road are likely to be closed if the river further swells. The Kabini reservoir level has shot up to 2,277.77 ft as against 2,284 ft with storage of 15.30 tmc ft water.

Meanwhile, 74,642 cusecs of water has been released from Krishnaraja Sagar reservoir due to inflow of 77,848 cusecs of water due to copious rains in Kodagu that has thrown normal life out of gear in catchment areas.

Priest's body recovered

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Madikeri

THE National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) retrieved the body of Seer Ananda Theertha Swami (87), the elder brother of the Talacauvery Temple priest Narayana Achar, from the debris of a landslide at Talacauvery on Saturday. The team had started the operation looking for the missing five people in the landslide.

The State has declared Rs 5 lakh compensation for Ananda Theertha Swami's family. Meanwhile, Rs 2 lakh compensation from the PM Funds has been announced for his family.

The search operation began on Saturday morning and was headed by MLA K G Bopaiah, who reached the spot with volunteers. While one earthmover was involved in clearing the Bhagamandala-Talacauvery Road of the debris, the second one cleared excess silt. Search operation near the priest's house by NDRF and SDRF teams, local police, and local youths, started 20 feet from where the house stood earlier. The NDRF recovered the seer's body in the evening and the search operation was called off on account of rain and fog. It will resume on Sunday

Meanwhile, temple priest Narayana Achar's sister Susheelamma and family reached Talacauvery on Saturday and filed a complaint with Bhagamandala police seeking help to find the five missing people. Temple priest Narayana Achar (70), his wife Shantha (70) and assistants Srinivas (30) and Ravi Kiran (26), are still missing.

NDRF, SDRF and local police conduct a search operation for missing persons in Talacauvery on Saturday | EXPRESS

"I rebel, therefore we exist.

Albert Camus

US-CHINA, NIXON TO TRUMP: END OF A DELUSION?

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
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NIXON called it the Week that Changed the World. July 2020 makes it 49 years, nearly half a century, since the fertilisation of a delusive idea which rested on a parade of fallacies and follies. On June 30, 1971, US President Richard Nixon told Patrick McConaughy, US Ambassador to Taiwan: "Either physically or philosophically, we don't do that to our friends."

Nixon was conveying an assurance of continued friendship with Taiwan in the context of the forthcoming meeting between US National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger and Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai. Ten days later, Kissinger told Zhou-Enlai that "we have ended the Taiwan Strait Patrol, removed a squadron of air tankers from Taiwan" and cut our military advisory group by 20 per cent". By the end of July 1971, Kissinger and Nixon accomplished what can only be described as the diplomatic version of throwing a 'friend' under the bus. By November 1971, Taiwan was out of the UN, a nation without membership on world forum.

The clock has turned. This week, US President Donald Trump sent US Health Secretary Alex Azar to Taiwan, the highest ranking official in over 40 years to do so. On Friday, Trump, in an effort to make China the central villain in his bid for re-election, announced a series of measures. The US placed sanctions on 11 Chinese officials and allies in Hong Kong, including HK chief executive Carrie Lam.

Trump also passed an executive order prohibiting US companies and residents from doing any business with Chinese owned TikTok and WeChat apps, setting a 45-day deadline. Even as Wall Street speculates on possible consequences on US tech giants, it is ineluctable that the delusion engineered under Nixon is unravelling TikTok…tick-tock.

The hypothesis, evangelised by Nixon and executed by Kissinger, was to wean China away to split the communist bloc led by Soviet Union. Fact is bloc was united only in fear. China's biggest fear was dismemberment. Zhou Enlai told Kissinger: "The worst would be that China would be carved up once again. You could unite, with the USSR occupying all areas north of the Yellow River, and you occupying all the areas south of the Yangtze River, and the eastern section between these two rivers could be left to Japan."

Nixon's idea was conceived in 1967 when as a candidate he wrote "we simply cannot afford to leave China forever outside the family of nations, there to nurture its fantasies, cherish its hates, and threaten its neighbors." Nearly half a century later, the US is accusing China of interfering in its election, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo believes "General Secretary Xi Jinping is a true believer in a bankrupt totalitarian ideology" with "designs for hegemony", and irony of ironies National Security Adviser Robert C. O'Brien says the Chinese President "Xi Jinping sees himself as Josef Stalin's successor."What is most remarkable about the saga is the means used by Nixon and his team. The world's oldest democracy erected on the principles of 'life, liberty and pursuit of happiness' chose to hug China, a totalitarian state under Mao notorious for mass surveillance, repression and human rights abuses, with the help of Pakistan's military dictator Yahya Khan and the infamous tyrant Nicolae Ceauescu of Romania.

Indo-US relations are riveted in contextual autism. The American establishment frequently refers to India's ties with Soviet Union. What it fails to comprehend is that it was the US-China détente which pushed India into the arms of the Soviet Friendship Treaty. Alexei Kosygin had offered the treaty in September 1969 but Indira Gandhi had set it aside till August 9, 1971 when Kissinger revealed the contours of the new Troika and Nixon's brazen bias. For five decades, the US promoted China's cause, opened up trade and even shepherded its entry into the WTO. Chinese exports to the US rose from $3.5 billion in 1985 to $557 billion in 2019. As the factory of the world, it boasts of $2.5 trillion in exports and a GDP of over $15 trillion. For all the hectoring by US regimes about human rights and democracy, its own companies have ensured a Chinese wall between profit motive and politics.

China, meanwhile, leveraged its economic muscle to lure subscription to its ambitions. How it does is best illustrated by this analogy. Every year, Chinese trawlers hunt an endangered species of sharks off the Galapagos Islands. Technically, the islands are within the Ecuadorian waters. The Chinese vessels use bait to lure the endangered sharks out of Ecuadorian waters into international waters and catch them.

The uniquely bipartisan awakening in the Trump era is triggered by the rise of debt, deficit and inequality — and what seems to be the hijacking of jobs and growth. In its engagement with China, the US exported its savings, investments, technology and jobs. US FDI stock into China is currently at over $115 billion and owns over $1.1 trillion of US Treasury bonds. It is now trying to cobble new alliances — whether on 5G, supply chains or security. The serenade of India with the new hit number, 'love me love my Quad' is part of the new symphony. India must and will choose the tune to tango to.

It is true that context is critical for policy and politics. So is legacy and history. The road to redemption is a long hard trek.

NOW COVID IS THE GREAT LEVELLER

POINT OF VIEW

TJS GEORGE

UNITY of the unexpected kind is in the air. Karnataka's Chief Minister Yediyurappa caught Covid and went into quarantine, complete with hospital shirt. Soon after the news was out, Opposition leader Siddaramaiah also caught Covid and went into hospital. Declaring solidarity with both of them, Amit Shah in Delhi got the virus and went into a private hospital. Thanks to Covid, India is uniting into one wholesome viral family.

This could well be the way forward for our country. As everyone knows, we have been having factional fights among our leaders over all kinds of reasons. Ideology was the reason when Leftists and Rightists fought. That was okay because Left-Right was seen in those days as a natural and not unhealthy way to divide a nation. The situation became complicated when Hindutva entered the scene and became a major player. It divided even Hindus into Good Hindus and Bad Hindus, the definitions of Good and Bad depending on your angle of vision. Now it looks that the future can be better if we get divided into Covid Indians and non-Covid Indians.

But politicians interfere there also and make things more confused and complicated. Just when we thought we could divide ourselves into new modernistic groups, Covid Yediyurappa visited Covid Siddaramaiah in hospital. If they had left it at a formalistic photo-op level, things would have been all right. But they got into a friendly chat, became extraordinarily happy and started laughing their hearts out. They turned Covid into a uniting force. Where is Covidised politics taking our country?

We turn to Delhi where the wisest in the country are in positions of power. We would have expected a sagacious Home Minister to guide us along the right path in such a situation. But before Covid got him, he was busy telling the world how successful India was in handling the situation. He had his own way of measuring success. According to him India's death rate from the virus was lower than that of other countries. "That shows we have fought this fight very well," he said.

In other words, Brazil's inefficiency is the yardstick with which India's efficiency should be measured. Actually, India has recorded the fastest growth of the epidemic and the third highest number of total cases. Now that Amit Shah himself has become one of those cases, hopefully India will become more pragmatic in handling the problem.

But one thing is already clear. This unexpected, unfamiliar and arrogant pandemic has been too much for our health infrastructure to handle. Close to 50,000 infections were said to be adding to the count every day. This may not include interior areas which lie beyond the regular beat of medical personnel. Let us not forget, also, that India's testing rate is one of the lowest among the hard-hit countries. If we take such factors into account, the actual numbers could be frightening.

But nobody is going to be frightened now that Karnataka's popular leaders seem to be enjoying their time in hospital. With the general public's follow-the-leader mentality, chances are that Covid might become not just a fashion, but a mark of patriotism. Yediyurappa and Siddaramaih certainly gave the impression that Covid was an enjoyable experience

But nobody is going to be frightened now that Karnataka's popular leaders seem to be enjoying their time in hospital. With the general public's follow-the-leader mentality, chances are that Covid might become not just a fashion, but a mark of patriotism. Yediyurappa and Siddaramaih certainly gave the impression that Covid was an enjoyable experience. Who can blame the more ardent followers of these leaders if they try to get Covid as a mark of loyalty?

The grim side of the situation was brought to light by the deputy chief minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia. In a letter to the all-powerful Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, the not-powerful minister said that the closure of weekly markets had forced five lakh families to sit idle in their homes. He urged the re-opening of hotels and markets since Covid had been brought under control. Not to do so would be "unfair to Delhi's economic situation and hopes of lakhs of people." The Lt. Governor was not impressed. He turned down the Cabinet's proposal/request on the grounds that "the situation remains fragile." The elected government had to bow to the appointed officer.

That the consequences of Covid are being welcomed by many people is beyond doubt. The lockdown it has brought about in many countries may have rendered millions jobless, but it has also made thousands happy — happy that they can sit at home and enjoy life. If you have the wherewithal that enables you to live without work, you are among the privileged who can ignore Covid.

Moral of the story: The world is divided into those who Covid mocks at and those who mock at Covid.

EDUCATION POLICY: THE EXIT OF AFFILIATION

OPINION

BIBEK DEBROY
Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the PM
Follow him on Twitter @bibekdebroy

EDUCATION is positively correlated with various socio-economic indicators of development. It leads to internalities and externalities and consequent gains. Even without that, education is desirable. The present educational edifice has been built up over decades. Deconstruction takes time. In this column, I will focus only on one aspect of National Educational Policy (NEP), 2020, the affiliation system. On this, NEP states, "The new regulatory system envisioned by this Policy will foster this overall culture of empowerment and autonomy to innovate, including by gradually phasing out the system of 'affiliated colleges' over a period of fifteen years through a system of graded autonomy, and to be carried out in a challenge mode. Each existing affiliating university will be responsible for mentoring its affiliated colleges so that they can develop their capabilities and achieve minimum benchmarks in academic and curricular matters; teaching and assessment; governance reforms; financial robustness; and administrative efficiency." In 15 years, these affiliated colleges are expected to become autonomous and degree-granting. NEP states it strongly — "Large affiliating universities resulting in low standards of undergraduate education".

In 1882, a Commission was appointed on the Indian education system, the Hunter Commission. This examined higher education too, but not universities. "The Resolution appointing the Commission excludes the Universities from the scope of our enquiry….The Despatch of 1854 prescribed the establishment of Universities, and in 1857, the three Universities of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay were incorporated by Acts of the Indian Legislature….The function of these Universities is that of examination, and not of instruction. The latter is conducted by the affiliated colleges and other institutions authorized to send up candidates for the University examinations." This was modelled on the way University of London was established through charters in 1835 and 1836. University of London did award degrees, but it was only a board that conducted examinations. Today, University of London has moved away from that old affiliating system, probably leaving a legacy only in the Indian subcontinent.

When we think of a university, we think it is meant to teach and undertake research. In an affiliating system, that's not what a university was supposed to do. The etymology of the word "university" has nothing to do with teaching, not directly. Even in the Latin (universitas magistrorum et scholarium), the expression means an aggregate community of teachers and scholars. University of Calcutta was established in 1857 and we forget the geographical jurisdiction it possessed then. Until Indian Universities Commission (1902) and Indian Universities Act (1904), there was nothing to limit territorial jurisdiction of five universities that existed then (Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Panjab, Allahabad). Panjab University was established in 1882. But Bishop Cotton School (Shimla) and Baring High School (Batala, Gurdaspur) were affiliated to University of Calcutta. So were St. John's College (Agra), Thomason Engineering College (Roorkee) and a host of others. There are similar examples for University of Allahabad too (established in 1887). The reason is that the university was only for examinations and a student had choice (at least till 1904) of deciding which university's examination to take.

We need to move away from the affiliating to the unitary university model, as London has also done. NEP has competition in mind. Competition implies entry, as well as exit. We will have exit of colleges (through mergers/consolidation) as has occurred in both London and the USA

In 2018-19, there was an All-India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE). This tells us that India has 993 Universities, 39,931 Colleges and 10,725 Stand Alone Institutions (awarding diplomas). The 993 universities are of many different types, but 298 are affiliating universities, with those 39,931 colleges under them. Thirteen universities have more than 500 affiliated colleges. Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur, affiliates 922 colleges. Splice that with another nugget, also from AISHE. This is all-India, not just for the university in Kanpur. While 16.3% of India's colleges have student enrolment less than 100, 48.1% have enrolment between 100 and 500. Only 4% of colleges have student enrolment more than 3,000.

For a college to be viable, both financially and from a quality perspective, I think we need 5,000 students. Stated thus, 96% of India's colleges are unviable. For Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), NEP has a lower threshold of 3,000. Whatever be the threshold, some of these colleges shouldn't exist. NEP contemplates increase in GER (Gross Enrolment Ratio) in higher education to 50% by 2035 from the 26.3% in 2018. (The figure includes vocational education.)

How is this possible if we cut down on the number of colleges? At the time of leaving school and entering college, don't we normally (Covid is a disruption) hear of a mad rush and suicides? There may be excess demand for 4% of India's colleges (the figure is probably lower), but overall, there is excess supply. One should also remember, for the first time since Independence, the absolute number of young (0-15) in India declined. We need to plan for the declining number of young too. Hunter Commission said, "At the same time, we are of the opinion that the principle should be kept in view, that a small number of colleges, thoroughly efficient and suitably situated, are likely to be of more permanent benefit to the interests of higher education than a larger number of colleges less efficient and less numerously attended." The 1902 Commission also frowned on affiliation. We need to move away from the affiliating to the unitary university model, as London has also done. NEP has competition in mind. Competition implies entry, as well as exit. We will have exit of colleges (through mergers/consolidation) as has occurred in both London and the USA. It will be impossible for most of those 39,931 colleges to adhere to that time-line of 15 years.

QUOTE CORNER

The US stands with the people of Hong Kong and we will use our tools and authorities to target those undermining their autonomy. Lam was sanctioned because she is directly responsible for implementing Beijing's policies

Steven Mnuchin, US Treasury Secretary

Thank you PM @narendramodi for your congratulatory phone call. With the strong support of the people of #SriLanka, I look forward to working with you closely to further enhance the long-standing cooperation between our two countries. Sri Lanka & India are friends & relations

Mahinda Rajapaksa, Sri Lanka People's Party leader

We have started drilling work again. We don't feel obliged to talk with those who do not have rights in maritime jurisdiction zones. Turkey's Barbaros Hayreddin Pasa, a seismic survey vessel, had been sent to the region to carry out its duties

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey president

MAILBAG WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

New chapter in Lanka

With the Rajapakshas firmly in the saddle in Sri Lanka,the return of military approach in dealing with the Tamils ethnic issue and a demand for a separate Tamil land for the Tamils within the unified island nation may again crop up and it would be interesting to watch as to how the situation develops and what changes may be expected in the aftermath of the thumping victory,the SLPP got in the elections just concluded. One can hope that the long pending issues are settled expeditiously and justly in order to see that the country moves forward with determination and with no ill will or rancour!

V Padmanabhan, Bengaluru

Hope amidst the crisis

The plight of mankind in the past few months is nothing but heart-wrenching. On one side, there is nature playing its game and taking away lives and on another side, there is man committing brutality against each other in the name of religion and God. It was highly traumatic watching the misfortunate incidents of the Munnar landslides and the Karipur airport flight crash on the same day. However, the high empathy and the quick response to this crisis showcased by the local people are commendable. They rushed and worked with high spirits without even bothering about their lives. This never-ending humanity of Keralites regardless of notions of religion and creed gives hope of resilience amidst these testing times of the pandemic and flood.

Sreelekshmi Ben, Alappuzha

Ayodhya dispute not over?

It is unfortunate that certain Muslim organisations are mentally still in the Ayodhya dispute mode. They make irresponsible statements like 'Babri Masjid will continue to exist where it did', and 'Hagia Sophia is an example…' The Indian Union Muslim League has passed a resolution rejecting Priyanak Gandhi's pro-Mandir statement. It is even more unfortunate that a writer like Santwana Bhattacharya makes sarcastic insinuation of the issue leading to yet another assassination akin to Mahatma's (TNIE, Aug 7). Such postures against construction of Ram temple could only add fuel to discontent, if any, on the issue. It would be a big folly to re-kindle the spirit of a communal dispute long settled.

P Mangalachandran, Kannur

Independent probe must

It is noteworthy that a bunch of petitions, filed in connection with the violence during the Jamia Millia Islamia protests against the CAA, sought the Delhi HC to constitute an independent enquiry to probe the police brutality on students inside the campus. It is true that the police should not become a judge in its own cause. Moreover, police cannot be expected to conduct a fair inquiry especially when their charge sheet say not a single police officer carried out any illegal activity during the violence while reportedly the police themselves destroyed the public property. In this case, the Delhi HC has a previous example too as the SC had decided in the Manipur fake encounter case to argue that the police can't be trusted with the investigation.

N Kalam, Maharashtra

Restructure bank loans

The RBI's decision in allowing banks to restructuring of loans borrowed by MSMEs, corporate borrowers,and individuals is really timely in view of the tremendous slow-down of the economy and financial damage due to Covid crisis . These three entities should be given some time under restructuring to tide over the present financial crisis due to lack of funds and heavy unexpected expenses created by the pandemic. Many of the personal loans availed by individuals, including pensioners, were unable to be regularly repaid due to the unexpected present problem. It will be apt for all the banks to consider restructuring of personal loans also along with other MSME loans and corporate loans lest many of these loans will certainly become NPAs when once the moratorium gets lifted.

Katuru Durga Prasad Rao, Hyderabad

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
Gandhiji's slogan of 'do or die' will have to be given new meaning on anniversary of Quit India. 'Fight against injustice, do not be afraid!'

Sitaram Yechury @SitaramYechury
Twin tragedies have struck a devastating blow in Kerala. Speedily investigate the causes for the aircrash to prevent any recurrence.

Piyush Goyal @PiyushGoyal
Railways has developed Arasalu station in Karnataka as 'Malgudi Museum', showcasing the fictional town from the iconic show, 'Malgudi Days'.

Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh meets parents of late Captain Deepak Sathe on Saturday | PTI

'My son saved 170 people but God took him away'

Air India pilot's brother had also sacrificed his life for the country

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

NEELA Sathe, the mother of Captain Deepak Sathe who lost his life in the Air India Express plane crash on Friday, is proud that her son saved the lives of 170 passengers. The 83-year-old said it was God's will that lives of 170 passengers were saved but the person who saved them died. "It was the wish of God. We are proud that our son sacrificed his life for the country," Sathe said.

Neela Sathe has also lost another son, Captain Vikas Sathe, in the service of the nation a few years ago. Captain Vikas Sathe laid his life while serving in the army in the Jammu region. Neela lives with her husband Vasant Sathe, a retired colonel, in Nagpur.

Captain Deepak Sathe was an experienced aerial operator with 36 years of flying experience. He was a former Wing Commander of the Indian Air Force (IAF) and had served at the force's flight testing establishment. He was a topper in the 58th course from the National Defence Academy in Pune. He was a Sword of Honour awardee. Sathe served in the Indian Air Force for 21 years before joining as a Commercial Pilot with Air India in 2005. Captain Sathe leaves behind his wife and two sons.

Nilesh Sathe, a cousin of Deepak Sathe, wrote an emotional post on social media recalling how his cousin had called him a week ago.

"He called me just a week before and was jovial, as always," he wrote. "When I asked him about the 'Vande Bharat' Mission, he was proud of bringing back our countrymen from Arab countries."

"When I asked him whether he was taking empty aircraft to these countries as they are not allowing entry of passengers, he had replied- we carry fruits, vegetables, medicines, etc. to these countries and never fly to these countries empty."

Nilesh also recounts Deepal Sath's past air crash incident where he was survived in the early nineties when he was in Airforce.

Sathe had also survived an air crash in the early 1990s when he was in the Air Force and was hospitalised for six months.

"Deepak was hospitalised for six months for multiple skull injuries and nobody thought that he will fly again. But his strong will power and love for flying made him clear the test again. It was a miracle," wrote Nilesh.

Sathe's aunt Meena said that he had the determination to fight and come out from any crisis situations. During the pandemic when asked whether he was not afraid of taking the risk, Deepak told her that he was ready to do anything for the country, she recalled.

"He was such a gentleman. We not only lost the great pilot, but a great patriot," she said.

> **The lives of 170 passengers were saved but the person who saved them died. It was the wish of the God. We are proud that our son sacrificed his life for the country**
>
> Neela Sathe, mother of Captain Deepak Sathe

Close shave for Mumbai-bound flight in Ranchi

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

A Mumbai-bound Air Asia flight, which averted a mishap after bird hit in the morning, was finally grounded after sparks were seen in the engine while taking off for the second time from Birsa Munda Airport in Ranchi on Saturday.

Earlier, the pilot had to apply emergency brakes after he observed sparks with blasts in the engine during the take-off. After proper check-up of the engine, the flight tried to take off at around 4 pm, but it was stopped after sparks were seen in the engine again.

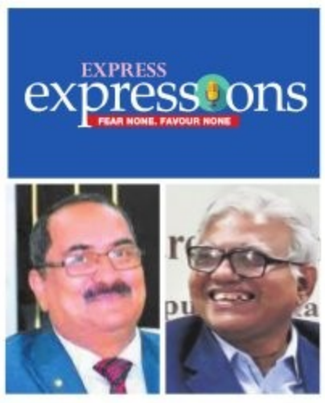
A fire-fighting vehicle and other escort vehicles were rushed in to avert any untoward incident.

"We heard two blasts with jerks in the aircraft while taking off and were told that it was due to a bird hit. We remained in the flight for over one hour and then we were taken out. After three hours, we boarded the flight once again. But, similar jerks were felt with loud blasts," said a woman who was travelling from Jamshedpur. She finally cancelled her ticket and went back home.

The Airport Director Vinod Sharma said that the flight, carrying 176 passengers, was prepared for take-off for the second time after proper check-up following DGCA norms.

'Acts for tribals need to be implemented'

WHAT happens when a 'powerful' Act to enhance the rights of tribals across India is passed in 1996, but the Rules to enforce it aren't seen the light of day for nearly 25 years? "It becomes inoperative," explains ***Dr A B Ota, director of the Odisha Tribal Research Institute****, who along with* ***Dr S B Roy, chairman of the Indian Institute of Bio-Social Research and Development (IBRAD)*** *spoke to* ***TNIE Editorial Director Prabhu Chawla and senior journalist Kaveree Bamzai*** *on Expressions, a series of live webcasts with people who matter.*



The Act in question is the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA). "The pity is that, though it was promulgated 25 years ago and is still the most powerful Act, the government is yet to come up with the rule to support it and without this, the Act is inoperative. Once the rules are announced, I think the tribals may get their due," said Ota, who has worked in the sector for the Odisha government for decades.

But merely passing policies is inadequate. "There is no dearth of policies for tribals. Keeping people aware of the policies in the community is what is lacking. Lack of competency in managing the resources as per the provisions of the Act is also there," said Dr Roy.

Responding to a question about whether the shrinking of forests was hitting India's tribal population, Roy explained: "The geographic area of tribal forest land is shrinking. If you see the Forest Survey of India, the green cover has increased in the last few years, but that is outside the tribal area."

But he agreed that a large portion was still dependent on the forests and its produce. Ota agreed on both counts.

"Traditionally, tribals have been dependent on forests. But because of government schemes, inundation and depletion of forests, they do not depend on it as much. As much as 59.3 per cent of the total forest coverage is in the tribal (TSP) districts and this shows that a good number of them still live near or depend on forests," he said.

Why then are there are sporadic allegations that the tribals are over-exploiting and harming the forests?

"It is an issue of perception. Conservation is not preservation. Conserving means tribals need to harvest it and survive on it without harming the forest. History tells us that the harvesting of timber is done by commercial corporate companies and tribals are used by them as labours," said Roy.

When asked if education held the singular key to bringing about large-scale tribal development, Roy said: "Tribals should be provided with the best education. But, for their development, if you create a few doctors, engineers and IAS officers, they will not stay in their villages and aid the process."

Perhaps the key to stemming the high dropout rate among tribal kids could lie within the Odisha model.

"We noticed that the dropout rate was high and so we built over 7,000 schools and brought our children to a residential mode of education. The rate has reduced to single digits," said Ota jubilantly.

Centre asks 13 districts with high mortality to address low testing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

THE Centre on Saturday advised thirteen districts in eight states and Union Territories, reporting higher than average Covid-19 mortality, to adopt necessary measures to reduce the case fatality rate. These thirteen districts have just about 9% of India's active Covid-19 cases but have reported 14% of the total deaths.

These districts include Kamrup Metro in Assam, Patna in Bihar, Ranchi in Jharkhand; Alappuzha and Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala, Ganjam in Odisha, Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, 24 Paraganas North, Hooghly, Howrah, Kolkata and Maldah in West Bengal and Delhi.

India has registered a total of 20,88,611 cases till Saturday morning and with 42,518 confirmed deaths, the CFR stands at 2.04 per cent. The country reported more than 60,000 fresh cases for the second day in a row with 61,537 new cases taking the number of active cases to 6,19,088.

As part of an engagement exercise with the states reporting high case load and higher CFR than the national average, the Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan held a meeting on 13 districts that also report low tests per million and high confirmation percentage. The Union Health Ministry said that a surge has been observed in the daily new cases in four districts Kamrup Metro, Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram and Alappuzha, adding that several issues critical to reducing case fatality rate were discussed in the meeting.

The states were advised to address the issues of low lab utilisation - for example, less than 100 tests per day for RT-PCR and 10 for others, low tests per million population, decrease in absolute tests from last week, delay in test results and high confirmation percentage among the health care workers.

"They were advised to ensure timely referral and hospitalization in view of reports from some districts of patients dying within 48 hours of admission," the ministry said.

States have also been directed to ensure unavailability of ambulances with zero tolerance for refusal and the need to ensure monitoring asymptomatic cases under home isolation with special focus on physical visits or phone consultation on a daily basis was underscored.

"States were asked to ensure a timely assessment and make advance preparedness for infrastructure such as ICU beds, oxygen supply based on prevailing caseload and estimated growth rate."

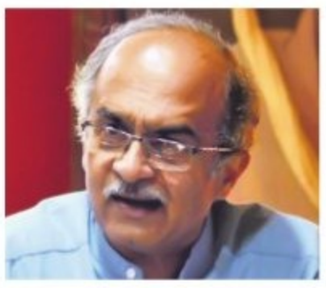
EXPRESS READ

Respond to whistleblower's plea: CAT tells Centre, Uttarakhand

Dehradun: The Central Administrative Tribunal issued notices to the central and state government to respond to IFS officer Sanjiv Chaturvedi's application that a decision be taken on his request seeking deputation in the Lokpal investigation wing. In November last year, Chaturvedi, the Uttarakhand Chief Conservator of Forests, had written to Lokpal seeking deputation to serve in its investigation wing.

Bengal to allow international charter flights from tomorrow

Kolkata: The West Bengal government has decided to allow chartered flights to bring back Indian nations stranded abroad from August 10 provided the passengers test negative for the Covid-19 within 96 hours before their departure. The government also said passengers with a negative test certificate need not stay in an institutional quarantine for seven days after landing in Kolkata or Bagdogra.



SC registry officials in dock over listing of Bhushan's plea

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

IN an interesting turn of developments, the officials of Supreme Court Registry were called to explain on Saturday the listing of a case filed by advocate **Prashant Bhushan**, journalist N Ram and former Union Minister Arun Shourie before a different bench when similar matters were already being heard by Justice Arun Mishra-led bench.

According to sources, a serious view has been taken of the "wrongful" listing of the matter on August 10 before a bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and KM Joseph. The matter has now been deleted from Justice Chandrachud's bench.

"As per practice and procedure in use, the said matter should have beena listed before the bench which is already seized with similar matters but it has been listed ignoring established practice and procedure," the source added.

The petition has pleaded for declaring as unconstitutional a relevant provision in the contempt law that makes scandalising courts as a penal offence. This petition was filed soon after the Supreme Court had taken a suo motu congnisance of criminal contempt against Bhushan for his two tweets. Subsequently, Bhushan had filed one more petition questioning the basis of initiation of the contempt proceedings against him. All these matters were heard by a bench, headed by Justice Arun Mishra, which reserved its judgment in the contempt case on August 5.

Bhushan's petition against the Secretary General of the court for initiating the proceedings was dismissed.

LAC STANDOFF

'China has not honoured agreement'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE meeting is significant as the Depsang area has remained out of the discussions so far. The Chinese army has moved to a point called the Y-Junction at the Depsang bulge, a narrow outlet. The Chinese are in a position to prevent Indian soldiers from reaching five patrolling points, each of which cover an area of 10-15 sq km.

The patrolling points are 10, 11, 11A, 12 and 13. The Chinese side has not honoured an agreement between the Corps Commanders for disengagement from all the standoff points. While the PLA has moved back from the Galwan Valley, it has continued its presence at Gogra (PP 17A) and on the ridge of Finger 4 on the northern side of the Pangong Lake.

The ambiguous behaviour of the PLA has prompted the Indian side to begin preparations for a long haul, with winter stocking of troops in full swing.

So far five Corps Commander level talks have taken place. India has insisted on a complete disengagement and moving back to the pre-May locations from the standoff locations. Even after the agreements, the Chinese side has not disengaged.

Auto driver assaulted for not chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' in Sikar

RAJESH ASNANI @ JAIPUR

A Muslim autorickshaw driver was allegedly beaten by two people and forced to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Modi zindabad' in Rajasthan's Sikar district on Friday. The culprits allegedly pulled the driver's beard, punched him and told to go to Pakistan. Gaffar Ahmed, 52, was left with broken teeth, a swollen eye and bruises on his cheeks after the assault. According to the victim, the incident took place early in the morning when he was dropping some passengers at the railway station.

Two persons have been arrested on the basis of an FIR registered by the victim. The police said the men assaulted Ahmed when he refused to comply.

"I was coming back to Sikar after dropping some passengers. On the way back at Jagmalpura some men in an SUV stopped me and asked for tobacco. When I gave it to them they said no and asked me to say Modi zindabad. When I refused I was slapped and asked to chant Jai Shri Ram," Ahmed alleged.

The auto driver said he left the place but they stopped him again. "They beat me up brutally. They said they would stop only after sending me to Pakistan. I fell unconscious and after I regained consciousness I somehow reached my home," Ahmed stated in the FIR.

He has also accused the two men of stealing his wrist watch and Rs 700 from him. According to the police, the two accused were arrested on Friday afternoon.

"We arrested two people yesterday, Shambhu Dayal Jat, 35, and Rajendra Jat,30. These men had parked their vehicle and were consuming alcohol when they stopped Gaffar, misbehaved and assaulted him," said Pushpendra Singh of the Sadar police station in Sikar.

"Both the culprits are basically drivers and also do farming. They also have criminal records. Seven cases are registered against Shambhu Dayal and two cases against Rajendra," the police officer said.

"The Sadar police station arrested two accused for assault on the auto driver. No person should post provocative posts on social media, otherwise legal action will be taken against them. Sikar police is always committed to protecting your interests," the Sikar police tweeted.

There have been several attacks on people of the minority community in recent past.

Only half of centrally-allocated ventilators delivered to states

KUMAR VIKRAM & SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

DESPITE the surge in Covid-19 cases, only about 50% of the all the centrally-allocated ventilators, a crucial medical device that aid patients in advanced stages of illness, have been delivered to states across the country.

An RTI reply received by this newspaper from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has disclosed that of the 17,968 ventilators allocated to states till July 10, only 9,150 instruments had been delivered. At only 6%, Andhra Pradesh led the states with the least number of ventilators being delivered. The other states with low numbers are Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, at 11% and 17% respectively. Sikkim and Lakshadweep didn't get a single ventilator, but both have low case loads.

Karnataka, with over 1.6 lakh confirmed cases, has received 630 ventilators against an allocation of 1,650. Kerala has received 107 ventilators against 480 being allocated. Maharashtra, the worst affected state with 4.90 lakh confirmed cases, has been allocated the highest number of ventilators and it has received 1,805 of them.

According to the RTI reply, the ministry had ordered 30,000 ventilators from Bharat Electronics for ₹1513.92 crore, with the purchase order being made on April 4. Additionally, HLL Lifecare limited, a central procurement agency, had ordered 28,850 ventilators.

The RTI reply said the PM Cares Fund had provided Rs 2,000 crore for the purchase of these made in India ventilators. When the pandemic broke out and there was a fear of ventilator shortage, the Centre decided it would allocate the device to the states under the PM Cares Fund free of cost.

It placed orders for the ventilators with fours consortiums or individual firms: Bharat Electronics Limited and Skan-Ray, Agva and Maruti, AMTZ, an Andhra Pradesh government initiative, and the Allied Medical Limited.

Rajiv Nath, the Forum Coordinator of the Association of Indian Medical Device Industry, said the industry had enthusiastically responded to a national emergency call to manufacture low-cost indigenous ventilators.

There were eight manufacturers making just about 3,360 of these devices earlier while 17 manufacturers are now in the game with a capacity to produce 4.27 lakh annually.

"There is an inventory of about 50,000 ventilators lying untouched and the industry is now under a lot of stress," he said.

"The government has not kept its promise of picking the inventory," he added.

A query to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has remained unanswered. But relief seems to be in sight for the manufacturers, with the government removing the export ban last week. "Thankfully with exports opening up, the manufacturers will be able to attempt to export their surplus capacity," Nath said.

DISCHARGED

Actor Abhishek Bachchan on Saturday said that he has tested negative for Covid-19 and expressed gratitude to the medical staff for taking care of him during his recovery.

1.51L BEDS AVAILABLE FOR CORONAVIRUS PATIENTS IN UTTAR PRADESH

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	36	24	Mumbai	28	25
Bhopal	34	24	Panaji	28	24
Jaipur	40	26	Patna	33	28
Amritsar	34	27	Lucknow	33	28
Chennai	32	24	Port Blair	29	25
Kolkata	33	27	Imphal	30	22
Srinagar	28	20	Chandigarh	36	23

Now Rajasthan BJP fears poaching, shifts its MLAs

Faction-ridden party banking on favourable HC order on BSP MLAs

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

FEARING poaching by the crisis-hit Congress ahead of the Rajasthan Assembly session beginning August 14, the BJP on Saturday shifted six of its MLAs to Gujarat's Porbandar on a chartered flight from the Jaipur airport. The legislators will be staying at a luxury resort there.

On Friday, 12 party MLAs had left Rajasthan for Gujarat's Ahmedabad where they camping at a resort. The BJP legislators who boarded the flight from the Jaipur airport on Saturday are Nirmal Kumawat, Gopichand Meena, Jabbar Singh Sankhla, Dharamveer Mochi, Gopal Lal Sharma and Gurudeep Singh Shahpini.

The move came ahead of the hearing in a case regarding the six MLAs who switched sides from the BSP to the Congress, that is scheduled to come up before a bench of the Rajasthan High Court on August 11.

If the HC gives a stay on voting right of the six MLAs, the Ashok Gehlot government would lose the majority. But if the court decides to strike down the merger but not stay the voting right, suspended Congress deputy CM Sachin Pilot would face disqualification along with his supporters.

While speaking to the media on Saturday, Gulab Chand Kataria, the leader of opposition in Rajasthan Assembly, said: "If there is a historic decision by the high court on the six rebel BSP MLAs, then our 75 votes will be very important. It is necessary to be alert. We will decide the future course of action only after the court decision."

Sources said the BJP may not fly all its MLAs out of Rajasthan. They, however, added that 15-20 legislators are expected to be sent to BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh.

While the rift within the Congress is out in the open, sources said there are many factions in the BJP as well.

There is a fraction in the RSS faction, with state chief Satish Poonia and Kataria its prominent leaders. There is another camp loyal to PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah led by Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. The third camp is loyal to former chief minister Vasundhara Raje.

> If there is a historic decision by the high court on the six rebel BSP MLAs, then our 75 votes will be very important. We will decide the future course of action only after the court decision
>
> Gulab Chand Kataria, BJP leader

Six BSP MLAs move SC for transfer of case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

SIX MLAs from Rajasthan, who were elected to the assembly on Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) tickets and subsequently merged with the Congress party in 2019, moved the Supreme Court on Saturday seeking transfer to the apex court of a disqualification petition filed against them by BJP MLA, Madan Dilawar before the Rajasthan high court.

The Bahujan Samaj Party had issued a whip directing all of its six MLAs to vote against the Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government in case of a no-confidence motion. The whip was signed by Satish Chandra Mishra, the national general secretary of the BSP.

BJP MLA had then filed a petition before Speaker C P Joshi against the merger being not treated as defection, which would have led to the six MLAs' disqualification from the assembly.

Dilawar has also cited the treatment of his own petition with the action taken by the Speaker.

UNLOCK 2.0: THREE STATES TOOK LEAD TO IMPROVE ON THREE COVID COUNTS

RITWIKA MITRA & SANA SHAKIL @ New Delhi

MAHARASHTRA, Tamil Nadu and Delhi, which account for nearly half the coronavirus caseload, are leading the country on the road to recovery. A clear decline of the disease is visible on at least three counts: a decrease in growth rate, an increase in doubling time and a reduction in positivity rate, an analysis of data by this newspaper of Unlock 2 period has revealed.

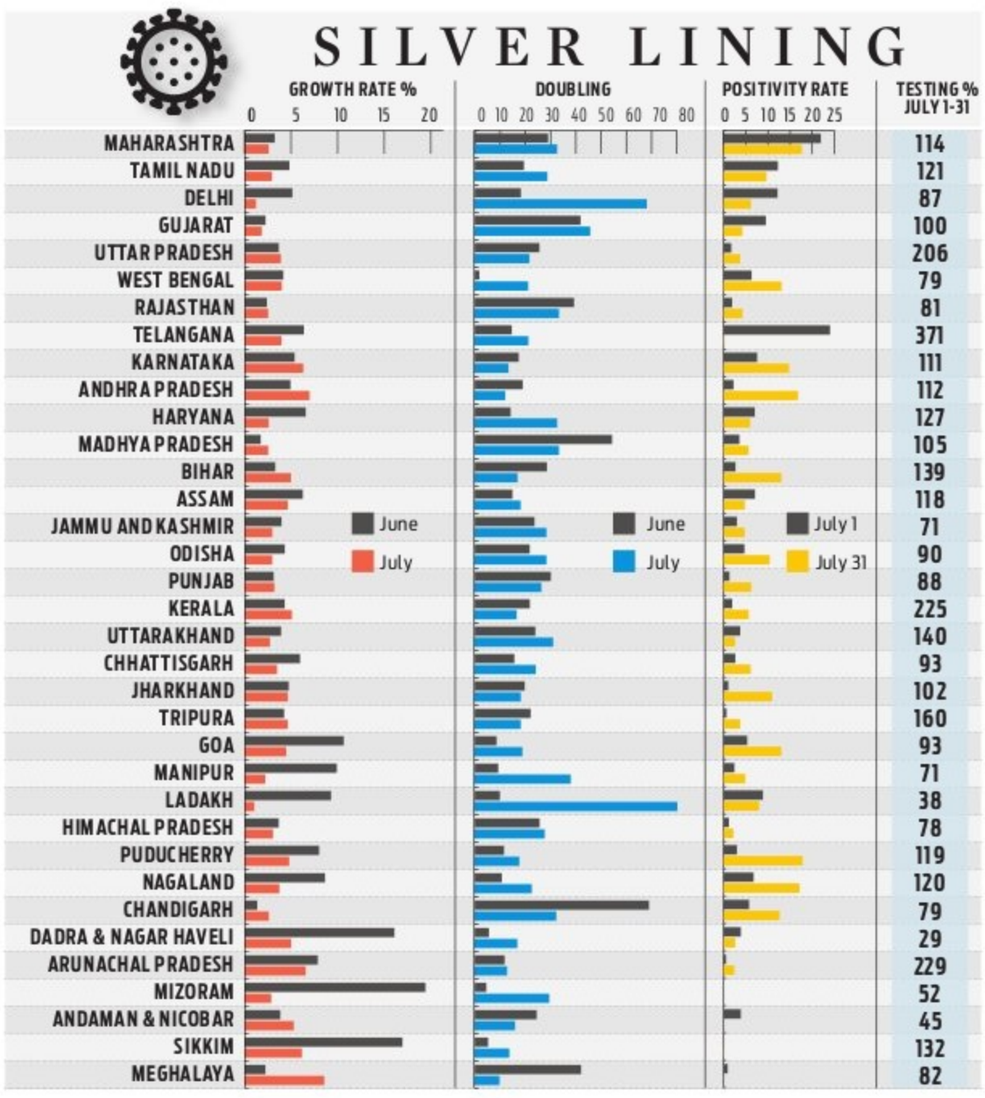
Maharashtra and Delhi, which figure on the first and fourth positions on the list of Covid-infections in the country, also registered a significant dip in the case fatality ratio by the end of Unlock 2 on July 31 compared to July 1.

Delhi has registered a complete turnaround and managed to do well on several counts, including bringing down its tally of active cases sharply by 61%.

"If the big states do even modestly well in improving the Covid-19 situation, it will have a significant impact on the overall situation in the country," said epidemiologist Jammi Rao, who has worked in public health both with in India and the UK. During Unlock 2, 23 states, including large and populous states, bettered their own records.

Of the total 36 states and Union Territories, as many as 15 showed noteworthy improvements in growth rate, doubling time and positivity rate compared to Unlock 1.

Besides Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Delhi, other states that seem to offer hope are Gujarat, Telangana, Haryana, Assam, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Ladakh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Sikkim.



Maharashtra

It was 1,80,298 cases as July began and the total case count by the month-end was 4,22,118. Although Maharashtra persisted with the highest caseload of Covid-19 and deaths in the country, it registered a dip in two important parameters: fatality ratio and growth rate. From a growth rate of 3.09% in June, Maharashtra managed to reduce it to 2.77% in July. The case fatality ratio also dropped from 4.46% in June to 3.55% in July. While the cases were doubling almost every 22 days in June, in July the state registered a higher doubling rate of 25.27 days. From July 1 till July 31, Maharashtra increased its testing by 114% and the positivity rate came down from 21.98% to 17.73%. Recoveries in the state upped from 51.6% to 60.6%.

Tamil Nadu

With the second highest number of cases and deaths, the state managed to improve the situation significantly. While Tamil Nadu recorded 94,049 cases on July 1, cases on July 31 was 2,45,859. The state saw an improvement in terms of growth rate from 4.58% in June to 3.14% in July, and the doubling time increased from 15.28 days to 22.29 for the corresponding period. The state also recorded over 120% increase in testing. However, the case fatality rate marginally rose, from 1.34% on July 1 to 1.60% on July 31.

Delhi

It is perhaps the only state that has showed a complete turnaround. The capital had 89,802 cases on July 1 and 1,35,598 on July 31. In terms of active cases, it had declined by 61% by month-end. The growth rate of the infection was 4.88% in June and this declined to 1.33% in July. It also showed a marked improvement in doubling time, going up from 14.34 days in June to 52.63 days in July. As for the positivity rate, on July 1 it was 12.23% and on July 31 it came down to 6.25%.

Timely intervention followed by ramped-up testing and extensive isolation strategy of containment zones seem to have worked. While the growing graph of active cases began showing a decline in the second half of June, the city continued to maintain the trend in all of July.

Gujarat

It saw marginal improvement with the growth rate reducing from 2.15% in June to 1.98% in July and the doubling time increasing from 32.55 days to 35.35 days during the same period. There were 1,868 deaths till July 1, which went up to 2,436 till the end of the month. A 100 per cent increase in tests was achieved, and the positivity rate declined from 9.60% on July 1 to 4.31% on July 31.

Telangana

The state recorded a 370% increase in testing in July. The massive increase probably led to a sizable change in the positivity rate. Telangana, which struggled with the highest positivity rate for most of June, managed to bring down its positivity rate from 24.04% on July 1 to just 9.28% on July 31.

The state also made progress in growth rate, which improved from 6.05% in June to 4.22% in July. The doubling time also improved from 11.57 days to 16.5 days.

(Tomorrow: The states that struggled)

'Harassed' MP sarpanch seeks mercy killing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

ACCUSING Madhya Pradesh Cabinet minister Meena Singh and her close relatives of prolonged harassment, a village sarpanch has sought 'ichcha mrityu' (mercy killing) in Umaria district.

"Cabinet Minister Meena Singh has been harassing me since last 10 years. Of late, her relatives have started tilling my agricultural land without my consent," alleged Munna Lal, the sarpanch of Karondi Tola village in Umaria district.

"I have submitted a presentation (addressed to the President) to the Umaria district collectorate, seeking Ichcha Mrityu (mercy killing) due to continued harassment by the minister and her relatives. If my plea isn't allowed, then I along with family will immolate publicly on Gandhi Jayanti (October 2)," the village sarpanch said, after submitting a presentation at the Umaria district collectorate.

Cabinet minister Meena Singh, however, denied the allegations against her. "I've nothing do with the matter. Residents of the village concerned have been alleging that the money which has come under different government schemes in their bank accounts has been withdrawn by someone else without any information to them," she said. "The villagers had sought information about it under the Right to Information (RTI) Act and approached me on not getting information, after which I asked officials concerned to look into the matter."

Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar meets Sushant Rajput's father in Faridabad | PTI

Sushant's father opposes Rhea's plea

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

SUSHANT Singh Rajput's father has opposed before the Supreme Court actor Rhea Chakraborty's petition seeking the transfer of the FIR registered against her in Patna to Mumbai.

KK Singh submitted in his affidavit filed Saturday that the transfer petition should be dismissed because it had become infructuous in wake of the case being entrusted to the CBI.

Last month, Rajput's father had lodged an FIR against Chakraborty and others, including some of her family members, in Patna.

In his affidavit, KK Singh said Chakraborty's transfer petition is not maintainable by law. The well-settled proposition law states that the transfer of a case can only be done at the post-cognisance stage, once a charge sheet is filed before a court of law. Transfer cannot be sought at the stage of investigation, which is when the matter is under police probe, affidavit said.

With regard to the Bihar Police's jurisdiction, Singh claimed it was competent to inquire into his son's death because part of a cause of action occurred in Patna. The police were duty-bound to look into the complaint lodged by the family under the criminal procedure code.

In its reply, Bihar government had accused the Mumbai Police of siding with Chakraborty.

Seeking the dismissal of her transfer petition, it alleged the actor and her family members came in contact with Sushant Singh Rajput with the sole motive of grabbing money from him.

Uddhav pulls up police

Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray expressed displeasure over the manner the Mumbai police chief has been handling the Sushant Singh Rajput suicide case. In a meeting with the senior police officers, Thackeray asked the reason of the delay in the investigation and why the media was not regularly updated about the case development. Pulling up the officials, the CM said that the entire episode has dented Maharashtra Police's image.

J&K CS draws flak for 'broken state' remark

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

JAMMU and Kashmir Chief Secretary **BVR Subrahmanyam** is under fire from parties over his alleged remarks that J&K was a "broken state" and that no one cried when leaders were detained after Article 370 was scrapped last year.

Senior Peoples Conference leader Imran Ansari in a series of tweets hit out at Subrahmanyam. "The CS J&K takes pride in dismantling, discrediting the mainstream," he tweeted. "Mr CS, you have been here for two years. Wonder, how many people will cry if you are arrested. Hope you focus on your job rather than dabble in politics," tweeted Ansari.

Talking to a group of journalists on Friday, Subrahmanyam said: "J&K was a "broken state" — the governance was broken badly, there was no system, no rules, and decay began a long time ago.

"Not a single soul had cried over detention of political and separatist leaders in August last year, when Centre scrapped J&K's status," Subrahmanyam reportedly said.

NC spokesman Imran Nabi Dar said it is clear that the BJP has installed its mouthpieces in the administration. "His statement reflects the inherent agenda of the incumbent to demean people of J&K and their leaders," he said. "The line that CS has taken is similar to what BJP leadership has been parroting since August 5 last year."

The PDP termed CS's statement as "sad state of affairs where the top bureaucrat takes pride in dismantling and discrediting the mainstream and brags about it". "The fact that he timed his statement with the swearing-in of the new LG adds a different dimension to it, given the impression that the new incumbent is to revive a political process," said senior PDP leader Naeem Akhtar.

Congress spokesman Ravindra Sharma said, "The CS is supposed to be neutral."

CHANDIGARH DIARY

HARPREET BAJWA
Our correspondent in Chandigarh
hsbajwa73@gmail.com

Housing Board to go by UT policy on paying guests

The Chandigarh Housing Board (CHB) has decided to implement the paying guest (PG) policy of the UT Administration pertaining to independent houses. Yashpal Garg, Chief Executive Officer, CHB, said the decision was taken at a meeting of the Board of Directors on Saturday. However, approval of the UT Administration would be obtained before implementing the policy, he added. The CHB had prepared a draft policy to allow PG accommodations in independent residential houses allotted by the board on the pattern of the policy of the Estate Office, UT.

City to bring system of lay-bys for city buses

The Chandigarh administration will be introducing a system of lay-bys for buses in the city. These are being introduced on the pattern of cities abroad. The project is likely to be completed in three months. These lay-bys will be constructed by the engineering department on various stretches. A tender in this regard has been floated at various locations in sectors 4, 27,19,21,22,23,42,51, Dakshin Marg, Shanti Path, sector 46 side. According to the details, these will be constructed at a cost of Rs 22.17 lakh. The transport department, had suggested that the lay-bys be carved out near bus-queue shelters on city's major roads, depending upon the space available, in the last Road Safety Committee meeting. Once the lay-bys are marked on the roads, the buses can halt there.

Odd-even rule back in city markets

The Chandigarh administration on Friday reintroduced odd-even system for opening shops in congested markets of the city. It will come into effect from Saturday. In addition to 'rehri' markets, the internal market of Sector 8 that houses various eateries will also open on odd-even basis. In the Covid-19 review meeting chaired by UT administrator VPS Badnore, it was also decided that the scooter repair market in Sector 43 will remain closed on all Sundays and some shops in the mobile market at Sector 22 will remain shut for the next six days. The odd-and even-numbered shops are opened an alternate days.

French Bank to fund water supply project

The Chandigarh Smart City Limited (CSCL) has sought a loan of `550 crore from the French development bank, AFD (Agence française de développement), to execute the pan-city 24X7 water supply project. CEO of Smart City K K Yadav said that they had a meeting with the ministry and the French bank officials also in this regard and they are waiting for final approval. "We just had a video conference with the officials of ministry and the French bank. It will be done shortly," he said. Meanwhile they had floated a tender worth `162.90 crore for the pilot project of 24×7 water supply in Manimajra and the work will begin by September.

2,85,000
children in Gaza returned to school after a 5-month lockdown, the government said on Saturday

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	34	26	LC	Los Angeles	29	17	SNY
Colombo	30	25	TDS	Melbourne	17	7	LC
Doha	43	31	SNY	Moscow	19	9	LC
Dubai	43	32	SNY	New York	29	24	TDS
Houston	33	23	SNY	Singapore	32	26	LR
Istanbul	29	20	LC	Toronto	26	18	TDS
London	24	13	LC	Washington DC	34	25	LC

Protesters storm Lebanon's foreign ministry building, call for revolution

First significant demonstration after Beirut explosion targets the country's establishment

A protester chants slogans inside the Lebanese foreign ministry in Beirut | AP

BEIRUT

SECURITY forces fired tear gas and clashed with stone-throwing demonstrators Saturday in Lebanon's capital amid mounting fury over the massive explosion that devastated much of the city and killed nearly 160 people. Dozens were still missing and around 5,000 people injured.

A group of nearly 200 protesters including retired army officers stormed the Foreign Ministry building in the capital Beirut as part of protests.

The protesters said Saturday the Foreign Ministry would be the headquarters for a "revolution" and called on the current government to resign. Retired army officer Sami Ramah read a statement on the building's steps after dozens of protesters pushed their way into the building. "This authority must step down," he said.

Thousands of people poured into Beirut's main square, where they set up symbolic nooses to hang politicians whose corruption and negligence they blame for the explosion at the Port of Beirut.

The huge blast was caused by thousands of tons of ammonium nitrate improperly stored at the port for more than six years, apparently set off by a fire. It was the biggest in Lebanon's history and caused an estimated $10-15 billion worth of damage, according to Beirut's governor. It also left hundreds of thousands of people homeless.

The protest Saturday was the first significant demonstration since the explosion and organizers planned to hold a symbolic funeral for the dead. As the protest got underway however, small groups of young men began throwing stones at security forces. Near parliament, riot police fired tear gas at protesters who hurled stones and tried to jump over barriers that close the road leading to the legislature. The protesters later set on fire a truck that was fortifying barriers on a road leading to parliament.

The gathering at Martyrs Square and outside the parliament building and government headquarters came amid popular anger against Lebanon's political leadership. The country's ruling class, made up mostly of former civil war-era leaders, is blamed for widespread corruption, incompetence and mismanagement that contributed to Tuesday's explosion.

The army issued a statement reminding the protesters to act peacefully and abstain from closing roads. *AP*

Goodwill or hypocrisy? Lebanese undecided on Israel's aid offer

Israel's offer of humanitarian aid after the blast is unlikely to be taken up

U.N. ROUTE BLOCKED

Government and diplomatic sources in Jerusalem say Israel has tried unsuccessfully since Tuesday to send medical equipment to Lebanon via the United Nations, which monitors a buffer zone between the two countries

Israel even sought to dispatch medical personnel to Cyprus, where Beirut victims could be treated, according to the sources

BITTER MEMORIES

In Beirut, many have bitter memories of Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, its occupation of the country's south until 2000 and the 2006 war that killed 1,200 people, most of them civilians.

Israel should stop exploiting this catastrophe to whitewash its crimes against Lebanon

One person from Lebanon tweeted

ASIA MATTERS

THAILAND

100s rally over arrest of protest leaders

Hundreds of demonstrators rallied in Thailand on Saturday, after police arrested two leading anti-government protest leaders in an apparent attempt to stifle growing political unrest. Around 800 demonstrators packed a concourse near a shopping mall in central Bangkok to hear speeches denouncing the arrests and call for Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha to resign. Tensions rose briefly as police officers moved in, telling the crowd they were only observing. They withdrew to a chorus of boos and chants for them to get out. After a period of relative calm in Thailand's fractious politics, the temperature is rising again with a wave of anti-government protests. Many have been held on school and university campuses in Bangkok and other cities. They reflect a growing anger among young people.

SINGAPORE

Singapore finishes testing of foreign workers in dorms

Singapore said it has completed testing all migrant workers living in dormitories for Covid-19, except for those in 'a few' standalone blocks that serve as quarantine facilities, *Channel News Asia* reported. The workers in these facilities will be tested when their isolation ends, and the case counts are expected to remain high in the coming days before tapering, the ministry said. It added that 132 new cases in the last 24 hours took the total number of coronavirus infections in the Southeast Asian country to 54,929.

PAKISTAN

Govt to allow all international flights

Pakistan has announced that it will allow the full resumption of all types of international flights to and from the country's airports from Sunday amid a steady decline in Covid-19 deaths and infections. The announcement comes weeks after Pakistan partially reopened its airports for domestic and international commercial flights. Earlier this week authorities allowed to resumption of domestic flights from all of the country's airports. A complete ban on domestic and international commercial flights was imposed in March. Later, the restrictions were gradually eased and Pakistan witnessed a peak in virus deaths and infections in June. Pakistan on Saturday reported only 14 deaths from coronavirus in the past 24 hours, raising its total Covid-19-related fatalities to 6,068.

HK, China officials jeer at latest US sanctions

HONG KONG

HONG KONG's leader and China's top representative in the city took pot shots at the United States on Saturday after the Trump administration sanctioned them and nine other officials for allegedly cracking down on freedom and undermining the local autonomy of the former British colony.

Chief Executive Carrie Lam took to Facebook to say that the US got her address wrong, listing the official address of her chief deputy instead. She noted that she was the deputy when she applied for her US visa in 2016.

"By the way, my entry visa to the US is valid until 2026. Since I have no desire to visit this country, it looks like I can take the initiative to cancel it," Lam said.

The sanctions, announced Friday by the US Treasury Department, block all property or other assets that the individuals have within US jurisdiction.

Luo Huining, the director of the central government's liaison office in Hong Kong, said being included on the list shows that he has done what he should for the city and his country.

"I don't have a penny of assets abroad. Isn't it in vain to impose 'sanctions'? Of course, I can also send 100 US dollars to Mr. Trump for freezing," he said in a statement on the office's website.

Pro-China activists display a picture of Donald Trump during a protest against US sanctions in Hong Kong | AP

Smartphone chips are running out, says Huawei

Chinese tech giant Huawei is running out of processor chips to make smartphones due to US sanctions and will be forced to stop production of its own most advanced chips, a company executive says, in a sign of growing damage to Huawei's business from American pressure. Huawei Technologies Ltd., one of the biggest producers of smartphones and network equipment, is at the center of US-Chinese tension over technology and security.

Hong Kong Commerce Secretary Edward Yau, who wasn't sanctioned, called the sanctions "unreasonable and barbarous" and said they would harm US interests in the city, an Asian financial and shipping hub.

Hong Kong has long enjoyed civil liberties not seen in mainland China because it is governed under a so-called "one country, two systems" principle in place since it reverted to Chinese rule in 1997. *AP*

HEALTH STAFF

British medics protest for pay increase after virus struggle

LONDON

HUNDREDS of health care workers rallied in British cities, demanding the government acknowledge their hard work during the coronavirus pandemic with a hefty pay increase.

In London, demonstrators – most wearing masks and observing social distancing -- marched to the gates of Downing Street, home to PM Boris Johnson, chanting, "Boris Johnson, hear us shout. Pay us properly or get out."

Medics have been hailed as heroes during the pandemic by the government and public. But some say a decade of public spending cuts by Johnson and previous Conservative prime ministers left the state-funded National Health Service struggling to cope.

A placard carried by a protester in Glasgow, said "Enough empty praise. (Give us) a fair raise." Another read: "Who saved you, Boris?" Johnson contracted Covid-19 and spent three nights in St. Thomas' Hospital. He later thanked staff there for saving his life.

Nurses, care assistants and junior doctors are angry that they were left out of plans to give an above-inflation pay raise to almost 1 million public sector workers because they have a different contract with the government. Dave Carr, a critical care nurse at St. Thomas' Hospital, said working through the outbreak was "the hardest thing I've ever done in my life and we're all exhausted. We're on our knees. And on top of it they give 900,000 public sector workers a pay rise — and I haven't got a problem with that — but they carve us out." *AP*

10 times govt was warned of explosion risk

BEIRUT

AT least 10 times over the past six years, authorities from Lebanon's customs, military, security agencies and judiciary raised alarm that a massive stockpile of explosive chemicals was being kept with almost no safeguard at the port in the heart of Beirut, newly surfaced documents show.

Yet in a circle of negligence, nothing was done — and on Tuesday, the 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate blew up, obliterating the city's main commercial hub and spreading death and wreckage for miles around.

President Michel Aoun said that he was first told of the dangerous stockpile nearly three weeks ago and immediately ordered military and security agencies to do "what was needed." But he suggested his responsibility ended there, saying he had no authority over the port and that previous governments had been told of its presence. *AP*

Is France trying to reconquer Lebanon?

PARIS

IT was almost as if Emmanuel Macron forgot that Lebanon is no longer a French protectorate.

Visiting explosion-ravaged Beirut this week, France's leader comforted distraught crowds, promised to rebuild the city and claimed that the blast pierced France's own heart. "France will never let Lebanon go," Macron said. "The heart of the French people still beats to the pulse of Beirut."

His critics denounced the overtures as a neocolonialist foray by a European leader seeking to restore sway over a troubled Middle Eastern land – and distract from mounting problems at home. A meme circulating online dubbed him Macron Bonaparte, a 21st century Emperor Napoleon.

But Macron's defenders — including desperate Beirut residents who called him "our only hope" — praised him for visiting gutted neighborhoods where Lebanese leaders fear to tread, and for trying to hold Lebanon's politicians accountable for the corruption and mismanagement blamed for Tuesday's deadly blast.

French President Emmanuel Macron waves after he visited Beirut, Lebanon, on Thursday | AP

Macron's visit exposed France's central challenge as it prepares to host an international donors conference for Lebanon on Sunday: how to help a country in crisis, where French economic ties run deep, without interfering in its internal affairs.

"We are walking on the edge of a precipice. We have to aid, support and encourage the Lebanese people, but at the same time not give the impression that we want to establish a new protectorate, which would be completely stupid," said Jack Lang, a former French government minister who now heads the Arab World Institute in Paris. "We must find new, intelligent solutions to aid the Lebanese."

A surprising online petition emerged this week asking France to temporarily restore its mandate, saying Lebanon's leaders have shown "total inability to secure and manage the country." It's widely seen as an absurd idea, but 60,000 people have signed it. *AP*

DIRE STATISTICS

Lebanon is bankrupt and collapsing due to multiple economic crises

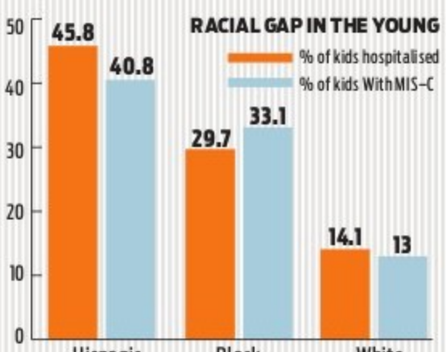
70% of its assets the country's banking system has lent to the government, as per the *Financial Times*

33% of Lebanese are unemployed

50% of population is below the poverty line

HOW RACIAL DISPARITIES AFFECT KIDS WITH COVID

Racial disparities in the US coronavirus epidemic extend to children, according to recently released government reports on hospitalisations and the occurrence of a rare virus-associated syndrome in kids



Source: CDC data on 526 children hospitalised and 570 with MIS-C

It's clear from these studies, and from other emerging research, that kids are not immune. Kids can pass along Covid, and they can also suffer the effects of it

Carrie Henning-Smith, a University of Minnesota researcher

HOSPITALISATION

8 times
Hispanic children were hospitalized at a rate eight times higher than white kids

5 times
Black children were hospitalized at a rate five times higher

MULTISYSTEM INFLAMMATORY SYNDROME IN CHILDREN (MIS-C)

3/4th
Nearly three-quarters of the children with the syndrome were either Hispanic or Black, well above their representation in the general population

30 mn jobless in US may fall into poverty as talks fail

WASHINGTON

A last-ditch effort by Democrats to revive Capitol Hill talks on vital Covid-19 rescue money collapsed in disappointment at week's end, making it increasingly likely that Washington gridlock will mean more hardship for millions of people who are losing enhanced jobless benefits and further damage for an economy pummeled by the still-raging coronavirus.

President Donald Trump said Friday night he was likely to issue more limited executive orders related to Covid-19, perhaps in the next day or so, if he can't reach a broad agreement with Congress.

The day's negotiations at the Capitol added up to only "a disappointing meeting," declared top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer, saying the White House had rejected an offer by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to curb Democratic demands by about $1 trillion. He urged the White House to "negotiate with Democrats and meet us in the middle. Don't say it's your way or no way."

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said, "Unfortunately we did not make any progress today."

Often an impasse in Washington is of little consequence for the public — not so this time. It means longer and perhaps permanent expiration of a $600 per-week pandemic jobless benefit that's kept millions from falling into poverty. *AP*

Russia wants Don re-elected, China doesn't: Intel

WASHINGTON

US intelligence officials believe that Russia is using a variety of measures to denigrate Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden ahead of the November election and that individuals linked to the Kremlin are boosting President Donald Trump's reelection bid, the country's counterintelligence chief said in the most specific warning to date about the threat of foreign interference.

US officials also believe China does not want Trump to win a second term and has accelerated its criticism of the White House, expanding its efforts to shape public policy in America and to pressure political figures seen as opposed to Beijing's interests.

The statement Friday from William Evanina is believed to be the most pointed declaration by the US intelligence community linking the Kremlin to efforts to get Trump reelected — a sensitive subject for a president who has rejected intelligence agency assessments that Russia tried to help him in 2016. It also connects Moscow's disapproval of Biden to his role as vice president in shaping Obama administration policies supporting Ukraine, an important US ally, and opposing Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

William Evanina, director of US national intelligence | NCSC

Asked about the intelligence assessment Friday evening in Bedminster, New Jersey, Trump appeared to dispute the idea that Russia was disparaging Biden. "I think the last person Russia wants to see in office is Donald Trump because nobody has been tougher on Russia than I have — ever."

But the president seemed to agree with the intelligence indicating China didn't want him reelected. "If Joe Biden was president, China would own our country," he said.

Evanina's statement, three months before the polls, comes amid criticism from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other Democrats that the intelligence community has been withholding specific intel about the threat of foreign interference in US politics. *AP*

100 bn units of electricity were produced by state-run power producer NTPC Ltd during the ongoing financial year, according to the firm

IBBI makes several changes to insolvency process

NCLAT VERDICT

A recent ruling allowed creditors to vote on two resolution plans in parallel

The amendment provides that after the evaluation of all resolution plans, the CoC shall vote on all compliant resolution plans simultaneously

Official statement, IBBI

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE past few days have seen the Insolvency and Bankuptcy Board of India (IBBI) make several amendments to the corporate insolvency resolution process. While the changes span a wide spectrum—from liquidation to resolution plans—the most impactful amendment is the requirement for a bankrupt firm's Committee of Creditors (CoC) to vote on all eligible resolution plans simultaneously.

Under the existing process, once a bankrupt firm enters the insolvency process, its CoC is required to vote on a valid resolution plan. These plans are initially put through an evaluation matrix to sift out the chaff, leaving the CoC to decide among those that are left.

Now, with the recent spate of amendments, once the proposed plans pass the eligibility test, the CoC will have to vote on all of them.

"The amendment made to the regulations today provides that after the evaluation of all resolution plans, the CoC shall vote on all compliant resolution plans simultaneously. The resolution plan which receives the highest votes, but not less than sixty-six per cent of the (total votes), shall be considered as approved," the IBBI said in a statement on Friday.

According to Rajiv Chandak, Partner, Deloitte India, the changes come in the wake of a recent verdict by the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) ruling that the CoC could vote on two eligible plans at the same time.

The new rules have also introduced a provision for a tie-breaker. "The tie breaker formula could soon be the most important factor in a resolution plan getting selected. Like liquidation value, the treatment of this formula would also be the subject to significant scrutiny," said Veena Sivaramakrishnan, partner, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co.

Other changes include allowing a class of creditors to choose an authorised representative from their own states or Union Territories; mandating these representatives to seek voting instructions from the creditors only after the circulation of the minutes of meeting—the agenda and preliminary views, however, may be sought before the meeting. These changes went into effect from August 7.

Earlier last week, the IBBI also decided that a liquidator can claim fees only on the basis of the amount of work they have done during the process.

Tax revenue in shambles, Govt left with few options

JAYANTA ROY CHOWDHURY @ New Delhi

THE Government is near broke. At a time when policy makers and analysts are urging a step up in spending to rescue an economy which has been shrinking ever since Covid hit Indian shores, the exchequer is staring at a massive shortfall in its earnings.

Like most households in India, it will find its budget deeply in the red by the end of the year unless it manages to pull out rabbits out of its hat—not only to cover its planned expenditure, but to also finance the economic revival package that it knows it must come up with to save the country from a deepening recession.

Aggressively selling its family silver such as state-run banks, public enterprises and insurance companies, and/or borrowing like never before seem to be its only options.

The Centre's financial report card till now looks pathetic—its fiscal deficit, the difference between income and spending, at the end of the June quarter stood at an all time high of ₹6.6 lakh crore. Or 83.2 per cent of the budgeted deficit for the whole year.

The fiscal deficit target of 3.5 per cent of the GDP for the year is likely to nearly double, according to many, given the huge revenue slippages expected and the fact that GDP will be shrinking rather than expanding as was believed when the budget was made.

DEFICIT SOARS

83.2% of budgeted FY21 deficit already achieved

₹6.6L cr fiscal deficit at the end of June 31, 2020

GST collections halved in Q1, I-T collections fell 36%, Corporate taxes by 23%

Tax revenues too have shrunk alongside the economy. Taxes from goods and services halved in the June quarter compared to the same period last year, income tax collections fell 36 per cent and corporate taxes came in 23 per cent lower. As a result, the Government's borrowings for the year will go up by more than a third to an unprecedented ₹12 lakh crore. More may be needed to plug the income-expenses gap.

All this mean's India's debt is rising. Debt as a percentage of GDP stood at 72.2 per cent in the financial year gone by. More borrowings and a smaller GDP is expected to push this to 87.6 per cent, according to the SBI Ecowrap report. A figure which would ring alarm bells among potential investors given that it is far higher than India's Asian competitors. Vietnam has a debt to GDP ratio of 54.3 per cent as of December last year, and Indonesia a mere 33.8 per cent which could go up to 35.8 per cent by this December.

Though almost the entirety of India's debt comprises bonds sold within the country, which means repayments are in rupees and not dollars (the USD has been constantly appreciating), a 87-88 per cent debt to GDP ratio is clearly a heavy cross to bear.

Taking on more loans to pay for a stimulus package may represent quite a dilemma for a state anxious to be seen as prudent by investors, especially from across the seas. One of the few remaining alternatives may be an aggressive sale of family silver. Says M Govinda Rao, former Member of the PM's Advisory Council, "instead of recapitalising PSU banks, the government should sell stakes aggressively. Committee after Committee have recommended this... Keep 30 per cent and sell the rest."

Officials in North Bloc say they may not go down to 30 per cent but an aggressive PSU stake sale could be on the cards, such as in insurance giant LIC and state-run banks, taking advantage of the fair returns in securities.

However, the stock market—which has rallied some 46 per cent since the lockdown was announced—may not remain buoyant for ever, and the hard reality of a flailing economy may well yank it down before India's elephantine economic bureaucracy actually gets down to business.

NEWSCOPE

WHY HAVE ALL THE GREEN SHOOTS EVAPORATED?

Finance Minister has now said that as long as the pandemic is active, the situation is full of uncertainty

TAPAS RANJAN

GURBIR SINGH

AFTER putting up a brave face that the "economy was seeing green shoots", it is good the Union government is now conceding the prospects of recovery in the near term as "fragile". Striking a realistic note, the monthly report of the Department of Economic Affairs frankly admits that "the increase in Covid-19 cases and subsequent, intermittent lockdowns make the recovery process fragile." The immediate learning: the pandemic is persistent; and that the revival of the economy is nowhere round the corner.

This reality is quite at variance with what many in government held out a few days and weeks ago. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing foreign investors at the India Global Week 2020 in early July, was quite emphatic that the various reforms and the 'green shoots of recovery' provided attractive investment opportunities in India, especially in the sectors of defense and space.

Barely two weeks ago, at the '2020 India Ideas Summit', Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was even more upbeat in promising a speedy and sustainable recovery. "The green shoots are (visible) based on high-frequency indicators... we will watch them as we go along." She listed the 'green shoot' indicators as the increase in electricity and fuel consumption, inter and intra-state movement of goods, PMI data and retail financial transactions that are picking up.

The viru's second wave

By last Saturday, Sitharaman had shifted her position. In an interaction with media, she sounded ambivalent. "As long as the pandemic is active, we are talking about a situation full of uncertainty," she said.

The finance ministry report, now realistically analyses that the coronavirus was more persistent than it was earlier thought. "India's top 12 growth driving states account for 85 per cent of the Covid-19 case load, with 40 percent of the confirmed cases concentrated in the top 2 growth drivers, ie. Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu."

In a new resurgence of the virus in cities that had battled it earlier, and in new areas in the South and East of the country, India is now seeing the daily caseload of cases exceeding 60,000 per day. This is the highest in the world, ahead of both the US and Brazil; though in number of total cases and deaths, we are still at No.3.

This new resurgence of the virus has led to a fresh spate of lockdowns and curfews across cities and areas that had seemed to have emerged from the crisis. This 'second wave' had not been factored in by the authorities; and the new panic has now disrupted the rickety supply chains that were just about starting to function.

All the recent 'high-frequency indicators' point to not 'green shoots' but a still-born recovery. Analytics firm IHS Markit's manufacturing data showed output in July contracted faster than in June. In particular, the Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) for manufacturing declined in July marginally to 46 compared to June's 47.2. The below-50 figure indicates a contraction, while a score above 50 is a signal for expansion of the sector. It's a "reacceleration of declines," says Elliott Kerr, an economist with IHS Markit. The finance ministry report has also highlighted that despite the Reserve Bank pushing lending as an engine of growth, bank credit growth recorded a measly 0.4 per cent increase in the fortnight ending July 3, compared to the previous fortnight."

Restoring supply lines

These are indicators that there is no quick fix and the recession is going to be prolonged. The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) said that the fall could be contained in the latter part of this financial year (FY21) if Covid-19 is arrested soon. Most economists who participated in a Reuters poll said the economy could contract by 20 per cent in the June quarter and remain in negative territory until the December quarter.

Where the government-both at the Centre and the states-can contribute to quickening the pace of opening the economy, but is not doing so, is in restoration of transport and logistics. How do manufacturing plants begin production without men and material? Anecdotal reporting shows there is a definite 'reverse migration' happening, where people who had fled to their villages, now want to return to their old jobs; but they can't because rail and bus links continue to be paralyzed.

Construction firms in Kerala trying to get their old workers back from Bihar on private buses. It's not working because authorities in Kerala, afraid of the virus, are denying permission for shipping workers by road. Mumbai's offices cannot function without the local trains becoming operational, or Delhi without its Metro.

Lockdowns being re-imposed by state and municipal authorities cannot paralyze entire populations. They have to be limited to hotspots rather than close down entire swathes of the city or state. If the government does not step in to support transportation and supply lines, economic recovery may become an endless marathon.

Pandemic forces Coal India to reduce targets

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

MINING major Coal India Ltd has revised downwards its production target for the fiscal year 2020-21 (FY21) due to the disruptions caused by the still spreading pandemic.

According to the company, its production target for the current fiscal year has been reduced to 650-660 million tonnes from the earlier 710 million tonnes. The company had duced 602 million tonne of coal last year as against a target of 630 million tonne.

"COVID-19 pandemic has affected demand for coal. However, it has started to pick up now as the industries have commenced operations. Given the situation, we are hopeful to end the year with 650-660 million tonne of production," Coal India Chairman Pramod Agrawal said.

As of the end of July 2020, demand grew by 7-8 per cent, while in the first week of August, it saw an uptick of 13-14 per cent, Coal India officials noted. On commercial mining of coal, Agrawal noted that this would help introduce a market-linked price mechanism and benefit the company, contrary to speculations. "Market-linked prices will benefit Coal India," he said.

Business & Beyond

NHAI inks pact with IIT-Delhi to set up AI facility

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has signed an MoU with IIT Delhi under which the two will set up Center of Excellence on the use of Artificial Intelligence in data-driven decision making. The MoU was signed in the presence of S S Sandh, chairman, NHAI, V Ram Gopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi, and other senior officials and faculty. Identified thrust areas include Project Management and Data Management; Highway Network Traffic Demand and Incident Management; Highway Safety; & Highway Work-zone Management.

Reliance Digital kicks off Independence Day Digital India sale

Reliance Digital stores and its website www.reliancedigital.in will offer users a variety of products with discounts and offers until August 11, as the company brings back its Independence Day Digital India sale. Deals will be offers on a range of electronics with an assured 10 per cent instant discount on HDFC bank cards. New offers will be announced every day until August 11, such as Side by Side Refrigerators starting at ₹48,490; Frost Free Refrigerators starting at ₹18,990; Direct Cool Refrigerators, etc.

UJVNL's Maneri Bhali-II and Mohammadpur powerhouses achieve record generation

The month of July has been a good one for UJVNL, with the company's Maneri Bhali-II and Mohammadpur powerhouses achieving record monthly power generation. UJVNL also surpassed its generation target for July. According to its Managing Director Sandeep Singhal, despite disruptions caused by the pandemic, the Dharasu powerplant of Maneri Bhali-II Hydro Electric Project generated 208.95 million units-the highest ever since its commissioning. The previous highest ever record in any month was 206.44 million units.

SAIL achieves highest ever July sales, borrowings now below FY20 levels

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) recorded a sales volume of 15.83 lakh tonnes in July 2020-its best ever performance for the month and a growth of about 50 per cent over July 2019 sales, which had stood at 10.59 lakh tonnes. SAIL sold 12.73 lakh tonnes in the domestic market and exported 3.10 lakh tonnes of steel during July 2020, at a growth of 29 per cent and 349 per cent year-on-year. SAIL has also reoriented its efforts towards strategic marketing and customer-centric operations, helping it reduce its debt levels.

UCO Bank reduces its MCLR Rates

UCO Bank has reduced its Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rates (MCLR) by 10 basis points (0.10 per cent), across all the tenors, with effect from August 10, 2020. The revised one-year MCLR will be 7.40 per cent, down from 7.50 per cent. The revised Overnight, One-month, Three-months and Six Months tenor MCLR now stands at 6.80 per cent, 6.95 per cent, 7.05 per cent and 7.30 per cent respectively, 10 basis points lower. As a result, all MCLR linked loans are now cheaper.

Zomato grants up to 10 days of period leave a year

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

IN a step towards building a more inclusive work culture, foodtech unicorn Zomato on Saturday said it will now grant menstrual leave to its female workers as part of its official policy.

CEO Deepinder Goyal wrote in a note that all Zomato employees who menstruate can avail up to 10 days of period leaves.

"Why 10? Most women have ~14 menstrual cycles in a year. Adjusting for the probability of you having your periods on a weekend, you can now rightfully avail 10 extra leaves compared to men. You can only take one period leave for each menstrual cycle," Goyal wrote. Zomato added that women employees can apply for the leave on the HR portal, feel free to tell people on internal groups or emails that "you are on your period leave for the day", reschedule meetings and proactively communicate if deadlines are getting impacted.

In a note to working men, Zomato said: "Our female colleagues expressing that they are on their period leave shouldn't be uncomfortable for us. This is a part of life, and while we don't fully understand what women go through, we need to trust them when they say they need to rest this out... It is our job to make sure that we make room for our biological needs, while not lowering the bar for the quality of our work".

Havells records five-fold sales spike in beard trimmers, grooming goods

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

HOMEGROWN electrical goods major Havells has seen a five-fold spike in beard trimmer sales after the Covid-19 pandemic broke out.

"Grooming products are high on the consumer shopping list, largely attributed to a need to self-groom since spas and salons have been shut for so long," said Ravindra Singh Negi, President, Electrical Consumer Durables, Havells India. "People are still wary about going to saloons. They are investing on this product since it is a permanent need," he added.

Havells also claims that it has become the number two player in the three important grooming accessories sub-segments—hair straighteners, hair dryers, and trimmers.

According to market estimates, India's self grooming industry is estimated to be worth ₹1,100-1,200 crore. A large chunk of this market is led by Dutch brand Phillips, while other global brands such as Panasonic and Braun are also present. In recent times, many new players, including Chinese tech giant Xiaomi, have entered this segment.

Despite the growing market, almost all brands, including Havells, import trimmers and grooming products from other Asian markets. "Currently, we are evaluating local manufacturing of these products, you will hear more from us on this in future. We are also evaluating extending our product portfolio," Negi said.

When asked about opportunities present for Havells in the rising trade barriers to Chinese goods, Negi said that with less dependency on external factors, local manufacturing will drive higher productivity and create an efficient value chain with more jobs.

While the government, both central and state are doing their bit to encourage domestic manufacturing, companies have to gradually become more self-reliant. "Around 95 per cent of our products are manufactured in-house in 14 modern plants spread across the country," he said.

Svitolina and Bertens to give US Open a miss

Two more top-10 women — **Elina Svitolina** and Kiki Bertens — will miss the US Open, joining No 1-ranked Ash Barty in skipping the Grand Slam tennis tournament during the coronavirus pandemic. No 5 Svitolina was a semifinalist at Flushing Meadows a year ago. No 7 Bertens said one of her concerns is the need to be quarantined upon returning to Europe after the event.

Test specialists to be in Australia by October end

According to BCCI plans, members of support staff to travel early as well

VENKATA KRISHNA B @Chennai

EVEN as Cricket Australia (CA) remains optimistic that the Boxing Day Test against India later this year will stay in Melbourne, the contingency plan being discussed with BCCI could see changes to the tour itinerary.

Moreover, with a planned camp for the Indian team in Dubai not possible under the circumstances, BCCI officials are in touch with their CA counterparts to send the Test specialists and a few others along with the support staff to Australia by October end.

The BCCI will not have any camp for the national players in Dubai or Ahmedabad. Instead, there are plans to send Cheteshwar Pujara and Hanuma Vihari and a few others to Australia with the support staff. They will undergo the customary quarantine period before being joined by rest, who will fly directly to Australia from the UAE.

"If we send them early, they would get adequate time to prepare. Players from teams that don't make it to IPL Qualifiers, will fly directly to Australia as soon as the league stage gets over. Coming home will make things more complicated," a BCCI official told this newspaper.

Although CA has already prepared an itinerary featuring three T20Is in October, followed by Tests and ODIs in December-January, it is now prepared to wait till October before arriving at a final decision. CA's interim CEO Nick Hockley said on Saturday they are doing everything they can to keep the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne, which is under Stage 4 lockdown.

Unlike other cities, where stadiums have been opened to public for AFL, Melbourne is an exception because of the number of active Covid-19 cases. CA wants the India tour to go ahead, as they are facing a severe financial crunch. Their officials are in touch with BCCI to make the series as safe as possible.

Should the situation remain the same Down Under, apart from Adelaide which is considered a safe venue thanks to accommodation facilities in the stadium premises, Perth and Sydney are being explored as other venues. Unlike Victoria and New South Wales, the number of Covid-19 cases in South Australia and Western Australia are still only in three figures.

While Perth was not scheduled to host India Tests, it may now get one and even crowds may be allowed to enter the stadium. Even though Hockley said CA would be "agile" and wait as late as possible to decide the venues, the BCCI wants the confirmation by October. If the situation continues, Adelaide and Perth stand a good chance to host Tests, with Sydney being explored as a venue for limited-over games.

Ministry asks sports federations for compliance details

INDRANEEL DAS @Chennai

THE sports ministry has asked 57 National Sports Federations (NSF) to give detailed information regarding compliance to provisions in the National Sports Development Code (NSDC) by August 11. As reported by this newspaper, this was in response to Delhi High Court's directive to file a detailed affidavit on whether they are adhering to the code.

Through a letter signed by deputy secretary SPS Tomar, the ministry has asked the federations to send compliance/status to the objections raised by petitioner and sports lawyer Rahul Mehra. The letter says "the Ministry is required to file an affidavit with respect to compliance of sports code provisions by the 57 NSFs in response to the affidavit filed by Mr. Rahul Mehra wherein he has critically pointed that NSFs are not compliant with the provisions of the Sports Code".

The ministry has also sent two forms to the NSFs to fill and explain whether they are following or are in violation of the code under 25 heads. Each form is related to Mehra's counter-affidavit submitted to the court during Friday's hearing.

According to ministry letter, the NSFs "are also requested to furnish comments/information in respect of compliance/status on the issues raised in Column No. 1 in Annexure K and Annexure L, respectively, of the reply, inter alia, quoting the relevant provision of the Constitution along with clause number and page number of Constitution and any other such relevant documents".

As reported by this daily, Mehra had said he requested the court to ask the ministry to file a point-wise reply to his counter affidavit on whether NSFs adhere to the code. A federation pointed out, most of the NSFs are following the main codes of age and tenure but issues like representation of women, requirement of defunct state Olympic associations' approval, proxy voting, etc could be problematic. In certain cases, restriction on civil servants being part of executive council, tenure restrictions for office-bearers could be sticky points.

As one federation official pointed out, the issue has been dragged a bit too long. If it is not settled early, there might be problems in sending teams to international meets.

EXPRESS READ

Woakes, Buttler take England to victory

MANCHESTER: Riding a partnership of 139 between Jos Buttler and Chris Woakes, England fought back from a spot of bother and beat Pakistan by three wickets in the first Test. Chasing 277 to win, the hosts were 117/5 when Buttler and Woakes came together.

Brief scores: Pakistan 326 & 169 (Yasir 33, Broad 3/37) lost to England 219 & 277/7 (Woakes 84 n.o, Buttler 75, Yasir 4/99).

England's Chris Woakes (L) and Jos Buttler during their partnership | AFP

Struggling Sharma misses cut again

HERTFORDSHIRE: Shubhankar Sharma carded a one-under par 70 in the second round of the English Championship but missed the cut. He aggregated one-under 141 over two rounds, missing the cut for the second time in as many weeks. This year, Sharma has made just one cut on the European Tour and that was in Abu Dhabi, where he finished tied 59th.

Puma buys kit sponsor bid papers

NEW DELHI: German sports apparel and footwear major Puma has bought bid papers for ₹1 lakh to bag the Indian cricket team's kit sponsorship rights. Nike held the right from 2016-2020 for ₹370 crore (plus ₹30 crore royalty). It has to be seen if BCCI, the governing body of cricket in India, can sell the rights for that amount in the present economic climate.

Cycling campers test negative

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

As previously reported by this daily, the national camp for sprint cyclists will be held at Indira Gandhi Stadium in New Delhi from August 14. Currently 11 athletes, four coaches and 16 support staff have reached the camp. They are in mandatory quarantine.

The cyclists and staff had undergone RT-PCR tests on arrival and all reports have been confirmed to be negative. One more cyclist — Triyasha Paul — is expected to reach the camp on Sunday. She has to undergo the same procedure. As an additional precautionary measure, everyone be tested again before the camp starts. Due to repair work, parts of velodrome will not be used. Initially, endurance and fitness work will be done. "Our coaches will recce the velodrome to ensure proper sanitisation and a plan will be made after a meeting on Sunday," a federation official said.

The quarantine zone where athletes, coaches and staff are housed has been earmarked as 'green zone'.

Immunity boosters for affected hockey players

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@Chennai

THE five hockey players being treated for Covid-19 at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) campus in Bengaluru 'are doing well', according to a press release issued by SAI. "The five hockey players housed in NCOE (National Centre Of Excellence) Bengaluru, who tested Covid positive on August 7, are doing well. They are being attended to by SAI's in-house doctor as well as one doctor from the state government, who has been deputed on SAI's request," the release said.

On Friday, skipper Manpreet Singh, Surender Kumar, Jaskaran Singh, Varun Kumar and goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak all returned positive tests. The batch had travelled together to Bengaluru for the resumption of camp after more than a month long break. Even though all the players returned negative in the rapid test, after Manpreet and Surender developed symptoms, the treating doctor recommended that they undergo RT-PCR test along with the group who had returned together. Results of seven other athletes are awaited.

The doctor deputed by the state government, Dr Avinash HR, said all the players are 'mild symptomatic cases', according to the release. "The vitals of the players like temperature, oxygen levels have been monitored and all five players have been found to be mild symptomatic cases. Except for one, the other four players did not have a fever. They are doing fine and we have put them on immunity boosters and other support medicines." SAI have also got on board professionals from Manipal hospital who have attended to the players.

Furthermore, to ensure that the players have 24 hour access to SAI authorities, two 'officers have been earmarked to exclusively monitor the athletes and cater to their requirements', the release added.

Chief coach Graham Reid has been in constant touch with the players. "I am constantly in touch with all five of them and they are doing fine," he was quoted as saying by the release.

Camps to go ahead

Meanwhile, as of this moment, SAI expects other camps to go ahead as per plan. Interestingly, even the hockey camps will start as per the original plan after the other members finish serving the mandatory two-week quarantine requirement.

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
49, Parisara Bhavana, Church Street, Bengaluru- 560 001
Ph : 080-2558 6520 / 2558 9112 Fax : 080-2558 6321
Email : ho@kspcb.gov.in Website : www.kspcb.gov.in

NO: KSPCB/51/SEO/MINES/EPH/2020-21/1507 Dated: 04.08.2020

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

Karigatta Limestone Mine of M/s. Cement Corporation of India Limited has proposed to undertake Limestone mining of capacity 1.0 MTPA in a total area of 52.81 Hectare in **M. L. No. 1339, Sy. No. 66, 65, 485, 486, 487, 488 & 500, Sedam and Injepalli Villages, Sedam Taluk, Kalaburagi District.** The project has to obtain Environmental Clearance from MoEF, Government of India, as per the EIA Notification dated 14.09.2006 (as amended on 01.12.2009), and is required to go through Environmental Public Hearing. As per the MoEF, Government of India, Terms of Reference letter (ToR) No. F. No. J-11015/114/2018-IA.II(M) Dated: 29.08.2019 and request of the project proponent dated 16.10.2019, the Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by the Board.

The details of the project are as follows:

1.	Name of the Company & Address: **M/s. Cement Corporation of India Limited,** Core 5, Scope Complex, 7 Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 003
2.	Proposed Location of Mine: **Karigatta Limestone Mine of M/s. Cement Corporation of India Limited, M. L. No. 1339, Sy. No. 66, 65, 485, 486, 487, 488 & 500, Sedam and Injepalli Villages, Sedam Taluk, Kalaburagi District**
3.	**Details of activity:** Proposed to undertake Limestone mining of capacity 1.0 MTPA.
4.	**Pollution control measures:** The Domestic effluent generated from the mine office will be disposed in septic tank and soak pit. As there is no generation of overburden or mineral reject from the mining activity, the excavated pit will be converted into the water reservoir at the end of mine life. This will help in recharging groundwater table by acting as a water harvesting structure. Planting of trees all along main mine haul road and regular grading of haul roads will be practiced to prevent the generation of dust due to movement of dumpers/trucks. Greenbelt of adequate width will be developed around the lease area. Plantation will also be done in dumping area and mineral stockyard.
5.	**Date, time and venue of public hearing: 10.09.2020 at 11:00 AM - near the proposed project site at Cement Corporation of India (CCI) Colony, Near Temple, Kurkunta Village, Sedam Taluk, Kalaburagi District**
6.	**Places of availability of project documents as per EIA Notification, which is kept open to public are:** (a) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Kalaburagi District, Kalaburagi (b) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Kalaburagi (c) District Industries Centre, Kalaburagi (d) Town Municipal Council, Sedam (e) Village Panchayat Office, Madkal (f) Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Kalaburagi (g) Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate change, South Zonal Office, E-3/240, Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E&F Wings, 17th Main Road, 2nd Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560 034 (h) HELP DESK, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001

NOTE: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site and likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification. They can also make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/ Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee (Deputy Commissioner, Kalaburagi District, Kalaburagi). Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. For details please visit our Website:**http://kspcb.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Member Secretary

AVOID USE OF PLASTICS, BE ECO-FRIENDLY

KSFIC Wood is good
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
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(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಒಂದು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
45 'ಎ' ನ್ಯೂ ಟಿಂಬರ್‌ಯಾರ್ಡ್ ಲೇಔಟ್, ಮೈಸೂರು ರಸ್ತೆ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 026. ಫೋನ್: 080-2674 8301, 080-2674 5072
e-mail: mailksfic@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಫ್‌ಐಸಿ/ಟಿಇಇ/ಸಿಆರ್/ಎಫ್‌ಯುಆರ್–ಟೆಂಡರ್/2020–21 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.08.2020

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟವರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ 2020–21 ಮತ್ತು 2021–22ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಟ್ರೇಡಿಂಗ್ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಪೀಠೋಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

(1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಮೂನೆ ದೊರಕುವ ಸ್ಥಳ: ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಮೂನೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರವಾದ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01–08–2020ರ** ನಂತರ ದೊರಕುತ್ತವೆ. (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01–08–2020.** (3) ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29–08–2020ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.** (4) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31–08–2020ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** (5) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಅನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31–08–2020ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.**

ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಚಾರ ಕುರಿತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಬೇಕಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು
ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು
ಕ.ರಾ.ಅ.ಕೈ.ನಿ. ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಟಿಂಬರ್‌ಯಾರ್ಡ್ ಘಟಕ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

Government of India
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
Mysuru - 571 130

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
No.: BARC/MYS/ADMIN/06/2020

Two parts sealed tenders are hereby invited on behalf of the President of India by the Chief Administrative Officer, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Yelwal, Mysuru from experienced and reputed Contractors from Karnataka State to **run Canteen at BARC, Yelwal, Mysuru:**

Name of the work	Running Canteen with a seating capacity of over 150 persons at BARC, Yelwal, Mysuru
Initial period of Contract	One year (Extendable by 12 months based on mutually agreed terms, subject to performance of the Contractor and the quality, quantity of the food items, hygiene and services etc.)
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 5,400/- Rupees Five thousand four hundred only)
Sale of tender documents	10.8.2020 to 21.8.2020 (10.00 hrs. to 15.00 hrs.)
Prebid Meeting	28.8.2020 (at 15.00 hrs.)
Receipt of sealed tender	7.9.2020 upto 15.00 hrs.
Opening of tender document	14.9.2020 at 16.30 hrs.
Cost of tender document	Rs. 500/- Rupees Five hundred only /Non-refundable)

The tender forms can be obtained from the office of Pay & Accounts Officer, BARC, Post Bag No. 1, Yelwal P.O., Mysuru – 571 130 **on payment of Rs. 500/- in cash** (non-refundable). Other details/ information can be seen on our website: **www.barc.gov.in**.

Chief Administrative Officer
For & on behalf of the President of India

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ವಿಶೇಷ ತಹಶೀಲ್ದಾರರವರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕಂದಾಯ ಭವನ,
ನೆಲ ಮಹಡಿ, ಕೆ.ಜಿ.ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560009.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಎಂ.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ(ರಿಕವರಿ)/ಸಿ.ಆರ್/183/19–20 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03–08–2020

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಿಷಯ: ಡೆವಲಪರ್ ಗೋಲ್ಡನ್ ಪನೊರಮ, ಗೋಲ್ಡನ್ ಗೇಟ್ ಪ್ರಾಪರ್ಟೀಸ್ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್, ನಂ.820, 80 ಫೀಟ್ ರೋಡ್, 8ನೇ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್, ಕೋರಮಂಗಲ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–95 ರವರು ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರಾದ ಎಸ್. ಅಪ್ಪಾಮಯ ನಾಗರಾಜ್, ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್–02, ಪ್ರಕೃತಿ ಸನ್‌ರೈಡ್ ಅಪಾರ್ಟ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್, 3ನೇ ಮೈನ್, ಕತ್ರಿಗುಪ್ಪೆ ಮೈನ್ ರೋಡ್, ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸನಗರ, ಬನಶಂಕರಿ 3ನೇ ಹಂತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560085 ರವರಿಗೆ ರೂ.77,49,326/–(ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಎಪ್ಪತ್ತೇಳು ಲಕ್ಷ ನಲವತ್ತೊಂಭತ್ತು ಸಾವಿರ ಮೂರು ನೂರು ಇಪ್ಪತ್ತಾರು ಮಾತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಾವತಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ: ಮಾನ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಜ್ಞಾಪನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಎಂ.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ(ಇತರೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ) ಸಿ.ಆರ್/20/19–20 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25–09–2019

ಡೆವಲಪರ್ ಗೋಲ್ಡನ್ ಪನೊರಮ, ಗೋಲ್ಡನ್ ಗೇಟ್ ಪ್ರಾಪರ್ಟೀಸ್ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್, ನಂ.820, 80 ಫೀಟ್ ರೋಡ್, 8ನೇ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್, ಕೋರಮಂಗಲ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–95 ರವರು ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರಾದ ಎಸ್. ಅಪ್ಪಾಮಯ ನಾಗರಾಜ್, ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್–02, ಪ್ರಕೃತಿ ಸನ್‌ರೈಡ್ ಅಪಾರ್ಟ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್, 3ನೇ ಮೈನ್, ಕತ್ರಿಗುಪ್ಪೆ ಮೈನ್ ರೋಡ್, ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸನಗರ, ಬನಶಂಕರಿ 3ನೇ ಹಂತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560085 ರವರಿಗೆ ರೂ.77,49,326/–(ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಎಪ್ಪತ್ತೇಳು ಲಕ್ಷ ನಲವತ್ತೊಂಭತ್ತು ಸಾವಿರ ಮೂರು ನೂರು ಇಪ್ಪತ್ತಾರು ಮಾತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು, ಮತ್ತು 10.75% ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಸರಳ ಬಡ್ಡಿ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವುದೆಂದರಿಂದ ಗೋಲ್ಡನ್ ಪನೊರಮ, ಗೋಲ್ಡನ್ ಗೇಟ್ ಪ್ರಾಪರ್ಟೀಸ್ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್, ನಂ.820, 80 ಫೀಟ್ ರೋಡ್, 8ನೇ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್, ಕೋರಮಂಗಲ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–95 ಇವರಿಗೆ ಸೇರಿದ ಚರಾಸ್ತಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತಾದ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಉತ್ತರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಗುಬ್ಬರಾಳ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಸ.ನಂ 42 ರಲ್ಲಿ 1–04 ಎ/ಗು, ಸ.ನಂ 44 ರಲ್ಲಿ 3–36 ಎ/ಗು ಸ್ವತ್ತನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಭೂ ಕಂದಾಯ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1964 ರ ನಿಯಮ 122 ರಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ ಜಪ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಭೂ ಕಂದಾಯ ಸಮಿತಿಯ ಉಪ ಬಂದನಗಳ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ : 20–08–2020 ರಂದು ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸದರಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಜಪ್ತಿ ಮಾಡುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಯಾರಿಗಾದರೂ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ವಿಶೇಷ ತಹಶೀಲ್ದಾರ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕಂದಾಯ ಭವನ, ಮೊದಲನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಕೆ.ಜಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560009 ರವರನ್ನು ಭೇಟಿಯಾಗಿ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ವಿಶೇಷ ತಹಶೀಲ್ದಾರ್
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

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(Re-accrdeited by NACC at "A" Grade with a CGPA of 3.47)
(Ranked 57th overall and 36th among Universities in NIRF ranking 2017)
Office of The Executive Engineer, University Engineering Division, Manasagangotri, Mysuru. Tel: 0821-2419383/2419345/2419295
e-mail:engg.division.uom@gmail.com website: www.uni-mysore.ac.in

No.: UED/DB-1/573/2020-21 Date: 03-08-2020

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender Notification No. UED/DB-1/e-Proc/IFT-08/2020-21 DT: 03.08.2020
(Through GoK e-procurement Portal Only)
Website: **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Executive Engineer, University Engineering Division, University of Mysore, Mysore invites tender for the following works in single cover system, through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka as per Karnataka transparency in tender procurement act 1999 and rules 2000, and as per the terms of Standard Tender Document K/W-2 from eligible class registered Civil contractors. The last date for submission of Tenders: **02.09.2020 upto 4.00 PM.** Earnest Money Deposit must be paid in one of modes through e-procurement portal as specified in the tender document and it should be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of the tender.

1) Name of Work: Providing Chainlink fencing to Volley ball and KhoKho Courts at Physical Education Dept., University of Mysore, Mysore Reserved for SC. **Approximate Value of Work: Rs. 20.90 Lakhs. EMD: 52,500/-. Period of Completion: 03 Months.**

Note: Full Details may be obtained from e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka website **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** further details can be had from this office or through Phone No. 0821-2419383 or Mobile No.9448788943.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer

DIPR/DDMYS/356/2020-21

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No.CA/02/NATA/2020 Date: 08/08/2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

RELAXATION IN B.ARCH. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR 2020-2021 AND NEW NATA-2020 REGISTRATION

Attention:- Students, Parents, Architectural Institutions and all Concerned

In view of the Pandemic Covid-19 and partial cancellation of 10+2 level examinations by various boards/ authorities in the country, the Ministry of HRD, Government of India, based on the recommendations of the Council of Architecture, has relaxed the eligibility for admission to 1st year of 5-year B.Arch. Degree Course, prescribed under Regulation 4 of the Council of Architecture (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education) Regulations, 1983, for the academic session 2020-2021, as a one-time measure, as under:

(1) No candidate shall be admitted to B.Arch. Course unless she/ he has passed in 10+2 scheme of examination with PCM subjects or pass in 10+3 Diploma with Mathematics, as the case may be.
(2) The candidates who have qualified the aptitude test i.e. NATA or JEE, with pass percentage in 10+2 scheme of examination with PCM or 10+3 Diploma with Mathematics shall be eligible for admission to B.Arch. course for the academic session 2020-2021.

The same has been published in the Official Gazette vide Notification No. F. No. CA/193/2020/MSAE(Regulations) on August 7, 2020.

Note:- The above relaxation shall be valid for the academic session 2020-2021 only, irrespective of the year in which a candidate has passed 10+2 or 10+3 examination.

All candidates meeting the above eligibility criteria may apply for registration for NATA 2020 on the NATA portal **www.nata.in**.

NATA 2020 shall be an online examination, comprising Part-A Test (Cognitive skills for Drawing and Visual Composition Test) & Part-B (Test on Scientific Ability & General Aptitude). The First NATA Test shall be conducted on August 29, 2020 while the Second Test is tentatively scheduled during 2 nd or 3 rd week of September. The candidates (new as well as already registered) are required to confirm their venue of examination as either home or nearest Test Centre as per their convenience. **The last date for Registration for NATA 2020 Examination has also been extended upto 16.08.2020, 11.59pm.**

For further details regarding NATA, the candidates are advised to refer to the brochure available at **www.nata.in** & **www.coa.gov.in** and also may contact NATA Helpdesk at Email: helpdesk.nata2020@gmail.com and NATA Help Desk No.: 9319275557, 7303487773.

Registrar

QuoteExpress IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE > NELSON MANDELA

According to a study in *Environmental Science and Technology Letters*, researchers found that 50 minutes of dry heat in an electric cooker such as a rice cooker or Instant Pot, decontaminated N95 respirator masks inside and out, while maintaining their filtration and fit.

EXFILE

MONKEY BRIDGE

An overpass juts from a forest over a four-lane highway in a rural area outside Rio de Janeiro that is meant for a very special pedestrian: golden lion tamarins. These small orange primates for decades have been at risk of extinction and this new bridge hopes to protect them. We take a look

RARE PRIMATE

The golden lion tamarins, whose name derives from the shock of orange fur that frames its face like a mane, has watched its habitat shrink over decades — even centuries — of rampant deforestation. Animal traffickers have also targeted the brightly coloured monkeys

COURT STEPS IN

Bowing to pressure from an environmental association — and following a court order — the highway's administrator in late July finished construction of the overpass that is aimed at helping conserve the species

IMPORTANCE

Connecting the forests means more space for the primates to roam and reproduce, and so to sustain genetic diversity

Our objective is to consolidate a landscape of conservation for the monkey. The biggest problem is the fragmentation of the forests, which were already deforested by the expansion of urban centres

Luiz Paulo Ferraz, geographer and executive secretary of AMLD

SCIENTIFIC NAME
LEONTOPITHECUS ROSALIA

SYMBOL OF BRAZIL

Very few Brazilians have seen a golden lion tamarin in person. But, virtually they all have held one in their hands

It features on Brazil's 20 reais bill. The animal has become a symbol for wildlife preservation in Brazil and beyond

1970s Scientists began conservation efforts to protect the rare primate

2003 International conservation status was upgraded to "endangered" from "critically endangered"

200 individuals of the species were alive when the programme began

3,400 Number of golden lion tamarins in 2014

THREATS

2016-17

A yellow fever outbreak caused the death of an estimated 900 animals. This was the biggest blow to the species since the start of conservation efforts

DISTRIBUTION

Found in just three small areas in southeastern Brazil, these monkeys have lost 2–5% of their original habitat in the region

An eco-corridor for the golden lion tamarin in Silva Jardim, Rio de Janeiro state, Brazil

WIDTH 20

LENGTH 40

FIGURE IN METER

The bridge connects the Poco de Dantas biological reserve in Rio state's Silva Jardim municipality with a farm that the Golden Lion Tamarin Association acquired to transform into an ecological park

Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon at 14-year high

9,205 square kilometres of vegetation lost in the 12 months ending in July; surge of fires in Aug and Sept in 2019 may have been the cause

GREEN COVER LOSS

SAO PAULO: Preliminary official data published on Friday indicate that deforestation in Brazil's Amazon region over the past 12 months could be at a 14-year high, adding to concerns that President Jair Bolsonaro has failed to rein in destruction of the world's largest tropical rainforest.

The Brazilian Amazon lost 9,205 square kilometres of vegetation in the 12 months ending in July, according to data from the country's space agency. That was largely due to a surge of fires in August and September last year.

The overall loss was 34 per cent greater than the prior 12-month period.

The data was produced by Brazil's Deter monitoring system, which provides daily deforestation alerts based on satellite images. Data from another system named Prodes, which relies on more detailed satellite images and records more of the deforestation, will be released by year's end.

Both are administered by Brazil's space institute, which tabulates annual deforestation starting with August, when the dry season starts and farmers and loggers traditionally start using fires to clear land.

"If the variation between Deter and Prodes figures remains at the historical average, we could have about 13,000 square kilometres of deforestation, the highest rate since 2006 and three times more than the National Climate Change Policy target for 2020," said the Climate Observatory, comprised of more than 30 non-governmental groups.

Aerial view of logs of wood seized by the Amazon Military Police at the Manacapuru River in Manacupuru, Amazonas State, Brazil in July 2020 | AFP

"This is not because of government incompetence in combating devastation; it has been happening because the Bolsonaro administration's agenda is to actively promote devastation," the statement added. "This is not incompetence; it's a design."

Bolsonaro came to office promising to open more of the Amazon to development, such as farming and mining. But international concern has led investors to try to distance themselves from the deforestation and to pressure the government to take more action against it.

Bolsonaro dispatched the Army last year to combat Amazon deforestation and fires and in May he stationed troops in several states ahead of the so-called burning season.

If the variation between Deter and Prodes figures remains at the historical average, we could have about 13,000 square kilometres of deforestation, the highest rate since 2006 and three times more than the National Climate Change Policy target for 2020

Climate Observatory

Deter data for July registered a decrease from the same month in 2019, when deforestation surged to the highest monthly level since at least mid-2015.

However, the reduction in July of deforestation has spooked international investors, though environmentalists warned it was too early to proclaim success.

That shows government efforts have achieved an "inversion of the trend," said Vice President Hamilton Mourao, who heads Brazil's National Amazon Council.

An analysis of longer-term figures for the world's largest rainforest is more worrying, however.

The 4,730 sq kilometres of deforestation in the Amazon from January 1 to July 31 was slightly above the 4,700 sq kilometres from the same period in 2019, the National Institute for Space Research (INPE) said.

4 die in US after drinking sanitiser

POISONOUS METHANOL

NEW YORK: Alcohol-based hand sanitisers can help stop the coronavirus from spreading, but drinking the products turned out to be deadly for four people in two states.

Health officials reported this week that 15 adults were poisoned in Arizona and New Mexico in May and June after drinking hand sanitiser. Besides the four who died, three had ongoing vision problems, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

All had consumed sanitisers containing methanol or wood alcohol. The active ingredient that kills germs in legitimate sanitisers is ethyl alcohol, which is consumable. But some companies have been replacing it with poisonous methanol, which is used in antifreeze.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a warning in June about Mexican-made hand sanitiser gel that it said contained large amounts of methanol.

OUCH!

Spanish matador Enrique Ponce being attacked by a bull at the El Puerto de Santa Maria's bullring, on Thursday. Bullfighting is still practised in Spain, Portugal, southern France and some Hispanic American countries | AFP

Covid-19 may have longer incubation period of eight days

SYMPTOM ESTIMATION

BEIJING: The incubation period of Covid-19, which is the time after which those infected with the novel coronavirus start showing the first symptoms, could be as much as eight days — longer than previous estimates of four to five days — says a new study which involved the largest amount of patient samples to date in such an analysis.

The research, published in the journal *Science Advances*, identified pre-symptomatic individuals at their time of departure from Wuhan, where the Covid-19 pandemic originated, and then followed these infected people until their symptoms developed.

According to the scientists, including Chong You from Peking University, the existing estimates of four to five days for the incubation period were based on small samples sizes, limited data, and self-reports that could be biased by the memory or judgement of the patient or interviewer.

In the current study, they developed a low-cost approach to estimate incubation periods, and applied it to 1,084 confirmed cases of Covid-19 that had known histories of travel or residency in Wuhan.

The method has better accuracy by relying on a public database of dates of infection, and uses statistical methods to reduce recall bias — the inaccurate recollection of past events, the scientists said.

Using the new approach, the researchers calculated that the average incubation period was 7.75 days, with 10 per cent of the patients showing an incubation period of 14.28 days.

They said the findings may concern authorities relying on the standard 14-day quarantine, but cautioned that their approach relies on several assumptions and may not apply to later cases in different parts of the world where the virus may have mutated.

FACT OF THE MATTER

China's 2nd plague death

BLAST FROM THE PAST

A patient in northern China has died from the plague, the second death from the disease in the country's Inner Mongolia region this week. The victim died Friday from multiple organ failure in a case of bubonic plague, the Bayannaoer city health commission said on its website. The area where the person lived has been sealed off, and seven close contacts have been placed under medical observation, the commission said. They all tested negative for the plague and showed no symptoms. On Thursday, medical authorities confirmed a different form of the disease as the cause of death of another person four days earlier, the Baotou city health commission said.

State of environmental emergency as oil spill crisis worsens

MAURITIUS PM

CALLS FOR HELP

PORT LOUIS: The prime minister of Mauritius has declared a state of environmental emergency and appealed to France for urgent assistance as oil from a grounded cargo ship spilled unabated into the island nation's protected waters.

Rough seas have hampered efforts to stop fuel leaking from the bulk carrier MV Wakashio, which ran aground two weeks ago and is polluting pristine waters in an ecologically critical marine area. "A state of environmental emergency has been declared," Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth posted on his Twitter account late Friday.

The tanker, belonging to a Japanese company, but Panamanian-flagged, was carrying 3,800 tonnes of fuel when it struck a reef at Pointe d'Esny, an internationally-listed conservation site near the turquoise waters of the Blue Bay marine park.

The environment ministry announced this week that oil had begun seeping from the hull, as volunteers rushed to the coast to prepare for the worst. Soon, oil slicked the coral reefs, lagoons and white-sand shores upon which Mauritius has built its reputation as a green tourism destination. Aerial images showed the scale of the damage, with huge stretches of azure seas stained inky black by the spill.

Image shows oil leaking from the MV Wakashio, a bulk carrier ship that recently ran aground off the southeast coast of Mauritius on Friday | AP

A spokesman at Mitsui OSK Lines, which operates the vessel owned by another Japanese company, said fuel was being airlifted by helicopter but poor weather was complicating matters.

"We tried to place a containment boom near the ship but it's not working well due to high waves," the spokesman told *AFP* in Tokyo on Saturday. Some of the fuel was in separate tanks and may not be at risk of leaking, he added. Jugnauth, after touring the disaster site, expressed fears the crisis could worsen with bad weather forecast over the weekend, and made an urgent appeal for help.

"We don't know what will happen to the boat. The sinking of the Wakashio represents a danger for Mauritius. Our country does not have the skills and expertise to refloat stranded ships, so I have requested the help of France and its president, Emmanuel Macron," Jugnauth said.

Twenty crew members were evacuated safely from the ship when it ran aground on July 25. Ecologists fear the ship could further break up, causing an even greater leak.

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